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US, Israel pen draft to restart talks with Syria

DAVID MAKOVSKY and news agencies
ISRAEL and the US have completed a draft, which addresses unsigned understandings achieved by the previous government, in an effort to restart the Israeli-Syrian dialogue. US special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross will bring the draft to Syria when he visits the region next week.
The development of the draft comes after reports, confirmed by sources, that prime minister Yitzhak Rabin made a conditional promise to President Bill Clinton that Israel would withdraw from the Golan to the June 4, 1967 borders as part of a peace treaty, once Israel was satisfied with Golan-related security arrangements and normalization.
State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said yesterday that the draft was penned following long talks between Ross and Dore Gold, a key adviser to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, after Netanyahu met Clinton on Monday.
"Now we will be going back to the Syrians," he said. "We have produced some ideas that we hope might lead to progress and convince Israel and Syria that they ought to reinstate conversations."
"Obviously, now having heard the views of the prime minister and his advisers, we will be going back to the Syrians. I can't tell you whether that contact was made this morning or whether it will be made tomorrow, but it will be made," he said.
Channel 2 reported that Israel, in the draft, accepted some of the understandings reached between Syria and the Labor government, but refused to commit to adopting all of them.
While *The Jerusalem Post* has reported that Rabin conditionally promised Clinton - apparently in 1994 - to fully withdraw from the Golan if he was satisfied with security arrangements and normalization, *Yediot Aharanot* revealed yesterday that the commitment to fully withdraw includes pulling back to the June 4, 1967 borders.
In contrast, then-foreign minister Shimon Peres privately had proposed withdrawing to the international boundary, which is several kilometers east of the June 4, 1967 line.
According to the *Yediot* account, Rabin agreed to make the conditional promise after he received an oral message from Syrian President Hafez Assad, via the US, that he would accept all of Israel's conditions regarding security arrangements.
However, this could not be confirmed.
Rabin did not inform Peres of this promise. Peres and his top aides first found out about it around the time of Rabin's funeral. According to the *Yediot* account, (Continued on Page 2)



Haggai Amir (left), Dror Adani, and Yigal Amir appear relaxed in court yesterday, where they were found guilty of conspiring to murder prime minister Yitzhak Rabin. Story, Page 2. (Dan Oren/Israel Sun)

Search for missing soldier continues

BILL HUTMAN
AS the search for missing soldier Sharon Edri continued yesterday evening, Jerusalem police chief Arie Amir said that it appears his disappearance is related to a dispute he had with his commander.
"The soldier was apparently called back to his base when he was on leave," and this upset him, Amir, who oversaw the search, told reporters.
Edri, 20, serves in a Nahal unit, and the search centered along the route from his home in Moshav Zanoah, near Beit Shemesh, to the Tzrifin army base, just outside Ramle.
The police and army were quick to call for a large search out of concern that his disappearance was terrorism-related. By yesterday evening, however, investigators believed it was unlikely he was kidnapped or otherwise fell victim to terrorists.
Edri was last seen at about 10:30 Monday night, when he reported to a medical officer at Tzrifin. The officer turned down his request for medical leave, according to the police spokesman.
Edri's family rejected the police theory that Sharon disappeared due to a dispute with his commander. "He is a responsible young man, who is strong and stable," a family friend said.
Hundreds of policemen, soldiers, and volunteers took part in the search during the day. After nightfall, only a small group of searchers continued work.
Amir said that in addition to the foot search, much effort was being put into intelligence work.
The police last night urged people to join the search and asked all those interested to call 08-9279534.
Last night, Edri's parents returned from abroad, where they were visiting two children who live there.

US masses B52's, stealth fighters near Iraq

Perry: Saddam will learn we are not playing games

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Iraqi forces fired a missile at US warplanes over northern Iraq yesterday and the Pentagon said it was moving F-117A "stealth" fighters and B-52 bombers near Iraq in apparent preparation for new strikes against President Saddam Hussein's military.
US Defence Secretary William Perry said the Iraqi forces "will very soon learn that we are not playing games" and warned that any retaliation would be "disproportionate" to what he called new Iraqi provocations.
Eight stealth jets were being sent to Kuwait and the B-52s were already on a British base on the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia, according to administration and defense sources.
Meanwhile, US defense officials said an Iraqi MiG-25 and a military helicopter defied US warnings and briefly flew into a no-fly zone in southern Iraq. No shots were fired.
Although the Iraqi SAM-6 surface-to-air missile missed the US F-16 fighters over northern Iraq in the morning, that triggered an escalation in a face-off which last Tuesday and Wednesday saw US cruise missile attacks on southern Iraq.
Perry told reporters the US was moving radar-avoiding F-117A stealth fighters, used to bomb Iraq during the 1991 Gulf war, to a country nearby. He would not say where, except to stress it was not Saudi Arabia.
US officials said privately that eight F-117s would fly to bases in Kuwait on Iraq's southern border after the emirate granted permission.
Other officials said US B-52 bombers like those used in the cruise missile raids on southern Iraq last week had been moved from Guam in the Pacific to a British air base on Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean.
While the cruise missiles launched by warships and bombers last week targeted only air defense targets in southern Iraq, the US hinted that any new strikes could be more widespread.
"In Iraq, air defense crews are playing some kind of a game, and they will very soon learn that we are not playing games," Perry told (Continued on Page 2)

IMF issues highly critical report of Labor's handling of the economy

DAVID HARRIS
THE policies of the previous government caused the current economic crisis, the International Monetary Fund says in a report it issued at the conclusion of its annual visit to Israel yesterday.
While the Labor-led government was not mentioned by name, the major criticisms in the report are clearly leveled at the previous administration.
"The decision to depart from the pre-1994 fiscal consolidation path can only be viewed as a mistake," hard to discern, notably on privatization.
Former finance minister Avraham Shohat refused to comment on the document, but Yossi Beilin, who was economics minister in the last government, admitted, "We made mistakes." However, he cast doubt on the government's ability to stick to its declared policies, something the IMF said it must do to avoid a serious financial crisis.
Full story, Page 8

Israel's population at 5.7 million

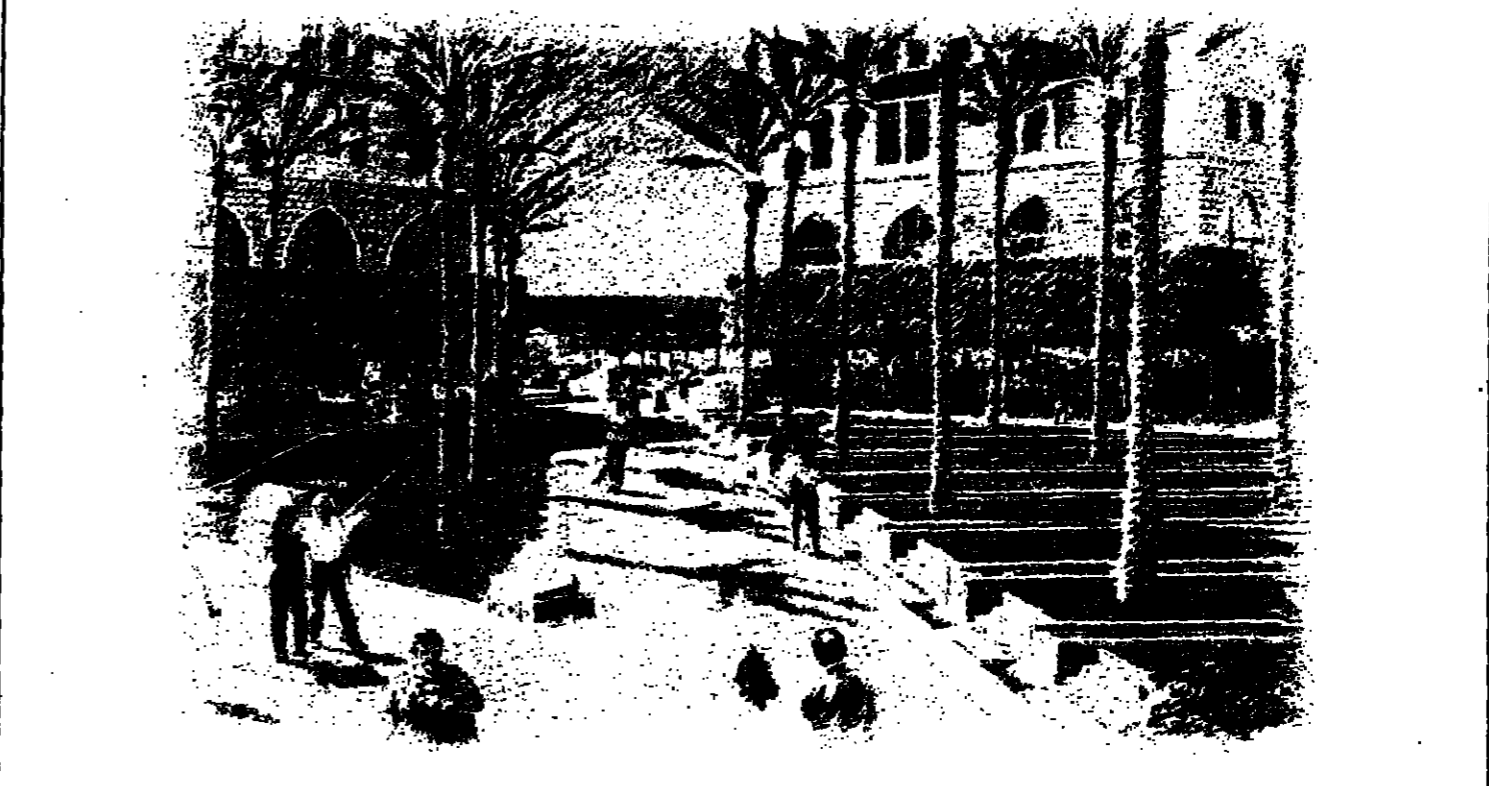
DAVID HARRIS
ON the eve of 5757, Israel's population stands at some 5,716,000, the Central Bureau of Statistics said yesterday.
Some 4,620,000 residents (80.8 percent) are Jewish, with 835,000 (14.6%) Moslems, 166,000 (2.9%) Christians, and 95,000 (1.7%) Druse.
The population increased by 141,000 over the last 12 months, or 2.5%, a drop from 2.6% last year. The percent of new immigrants among the yearly increase dropped to 40% from 42%.

Eleven-justice panel to rule on fate of Nahmani embryos

EVELYN GORDON
ELEVEN Supreme Court justices will rule this morning on whether a man can prevent his ex-wife from using eggs fertilized in vitro with his sperm to produce a baby.
The court is hearing the case of Danny and Ruti Nahmani, who, since Ruti could not have a child normally, agreed that they would fertilize her eggs with his sperm in vitro and then implant them in a surrogate mother. When the marriage later broke up, however, Danny asked that the fertilized eggs be destroyed.
The eggs are probably Ruti's last chance at motherhood, since she is unlikely to be able to produce more even if she could find another sperm donor.
The Haifa District Court initially ruled in Ruti's favor, but the Supreme Court overturned this decision last year in a 4-1 verdict, ruling that a man cannot be made a father against his will. Ruti then asked for a rehearing before an expanded panel of justices, and the court, in a precedent-setting ruling, agreed to do so despite the fact that

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Amir brothers, Adani found guilty on all counts

A PANEL of three Tel Aviv District Court judges yesterday convicted Yigal and Haggai Amir and Dror Adani of conspiracy to murder prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, conspiring to hurt Arabs and damage their property, and possession and transportation of weapons.

The decision, by Judges Amnon Strashnov, Ze'ev Harner, and Shelly Timen was unanimous. Pre-sentencing arguments and sentencing were postponed until October 3.

The maximum sentence for illegal possession and manufacture of weapons is 15 years imprisonment. For conspiracy, the maximum sentence is a seven-year term. Prosecutor Penina Guy intends to request the maximum sentences for all defendants, to run consecutively.

Yigal Amir is already serving a life sentence plus six years for assassinating

Rabin and wounding his bodyguard.

Shlomo Amir and his daughter Hadass were present to hear the verdict in the heavily guarded courtroom. All three defendants appeared relaxed and Yigal smiled faintly throughout the proceedings. After the verdict, Hadass Amir said that the proceedings "had no meaning and the only judge of my brothers is God. I didn't expect the court to conduct a fair trial."

Defense lawyers Shmuel Fleishman, Moshe Meroz, and Zion Amir said they would appeal to the Supreme Court.

Meroz, Haggai Amir's lawyer, said he was "disappointed with the verdict, but certain rulings by the court may be in our favor regarding sentencing."

But Zion Amir, representing Adani, said he was neither surprised nor disappointed.

"In such a high-profile case, I did not expect the court to separate itself from

general public feeling surrounding the murder of Rabin," Amir said. "Therefore, I am not disappointed. I did not expect the court's impartiality."

Haggai Amir was also charged with manufacturing explosives and making the hollow-point bullets used to kill Rabin. Some 65 such bullets, large caches of explosives, bombs, and other ammunition - some manufactured and some stolen from the IDF - were discovered by police at the Amirs' Herzliya home.

Previous attempts by Meroz to argue that Haggai's confessions to police and the GSS were made under pressure were discounted in earlier hearings, and Strashnov ruled that his testimony was genuine but he had simply later regretted his statements. Yigal had tried to protect Haggai by insisting he

had acted alone, Strashnov ruled, so Haggai would not be charged with the crimes.

Haggai's testimony to police and the GSS, Strashnov added, specifically mentioned decisions to kill Rabin, thus supporting conspiracy charges.

"Haggai Amir said that he and his brother reached the decision to harm Rabin," Strashnov said.

In delivering the 50-page verdict, Strashnov said that defense claims that Haggai tried to dissuade his brother from murdering Rabin by suggesting such "ridiculous" ideas as poisoning the water supply at Rabin's home or booby-trapping his car or microphone, were in fact genuine suggestions. Haggai actually conspired with his brother, with full criminal intent to kill Rabin, Strashnov ruled.

The defense had also claimed that Yigal had taken his brother on a car ride around Rabin's home "by coincidence" to discuss various ideas on how to murder him. But Strashnov ruled that the car ride was intentional, with Haggai's consent.

Defense lawyers had argued that ideas discussed between the three were not serious and were only "living room conversations," but Strashnov dispelled their arguments.

Haggai's original intention was to obtain - via the IDF - an M-16 rifle, on the grounds that he lived in the territories. He would then fit a silencer to it and give it to his brother to use to murder Rabin. But he was not given a license for the M-16, since he did not meet the desired criteria. However, the brothers tried out an Uzi, provided by Adani, and fitted it with an improvised silencer.

All three defendants were found guilty of forming an organization to harm Arabs and their property, including plans to sabotage electrical cables.

Adani would visit the Amir brothers regularly and knew of their plans, Strashnov concluded. He even offered to help booby-trap a car near Rabin's Ramat Aviv home. He temporarily severed his contact with the Amirs, renewing it about six months prior to the murder.

Strashnov agreed that Adani's played less of a part in the conspiracy than Haggai Amir. "However, he still brought up ideas and went to a rabbi to ask if there was a *din rodef* on Rabin. The rabbi told him that it was forbidden to kill Rabin, but Adani put his own interpretation on the ruling," Strashnov said. "In this case," Strashnov concluded, "justice has been done by the prosecution."

Report: US may hold back on cooperation with Egypt

ELDAD BECK and HILLEL KUTTLER

THE US is threatening to hold back on economic cooperation with Egypt, if Cairo refuses to host the third Middle East regional economic summit to protest the Netanyahu government's policies, according to a report in the daily *Al-Hayat*, published in Paris.

The report said a US delegation, headed by undersecretary John Spiro, that arrived in Cairo to prepare the summit made it clear that Washington intends to link fulfillment of the "Mubarak-Gore" cooperation agreement, signed in September 1994, with the holding of the Cairo summit.

Al-Hayat quotes Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's political adviser Osama Baz as saying that Egypt is examining the possibility of postponing the summit, since "the atmosphere is not appropriate." However, the Americans told the Egyptians that cancelling or postponing the summit will produce negative political and economic consequences.

The US believes that many of

the countries invited to the summit will decide not to take part in the meeting if it is delayed, and that investors and businessmen who are expected to attend the summit will avoid any financial commitments.

The US is urging the Egyptians to help in efforts to resume the peace process by holding the summit on time.

Egyptian officials in Washington said they have heard nothing of the US's reported linkage.

"All the preparation for the summit is going on, so there is no problem," an embassy official stated.

He added that recent declarations by Mubarak and Foreign Minister Amr Moussa on the need for Israel to fulfill its commitments to the Palestinians deal with "the essentials for the summit. If there will not be progress, the Arab countries will not send delegations. We never said it's a condition, [but] it would facilitate the success of the conference."

Temple Mount Faithful demand halt to Wakf construction on Mount

EVELYN GORDON

THE Temple Mount Faithful yesterday asked the High Court of Justice to force the police to stop the Wakf's illegal building on the Temple Mount.

The Wakf has recently been engaged in extensive building on the southern section of the mount, destroying several archeological remains from the Second Temple period, the petition noted.

Since the Wakf never obtained a permit for this work, the Jerusalem Municipality filed a complaint in the local affairs court, which issued an injunction ordering the work to be halted.

The Wakf ignored the order, however, as it does not recognize Israel's sovereignty over the mount, so the city asked the police to enforce the injunction. However, the petition said, the police refused to do so, on the grounds that it would cause rioting among the Arabs.

The petition noted that the police's decision is in direct violation of a 1993 High Court ruling on an earlier Temple Mount Faithful petition about illegal building by the Wakf. In this ruling, the justices upheld the authorities' decision not to take any action against the illegal building, most of which had been completed years earlier. However, they sharply criticized the authorities' negligence, demanded that the law be enforced from then on, and said they agreed to overlook this negligence only because of the authorities' promise to uphold the law in the future.

Furthermore, the petition said, the police's decision not to enforce a court order due to threats of violence destroys the entire concept of the rule of law, and will encourage widespread disobedience to the law by any group willing to back up its disobedience with violence. This decision is therefore completely unreasonable, the petition charged.

The petition also asked the court to order a criminal investigation into the illegal building, with the aim of putting the perpetrators on trial.

Golan lobby: We were right about Labor gov't

DAVID RUDGE

THE Golan Residents Committee was not surprised by the revelations in *Yediot Aharonot* reporter Orly Azulai-Katz's soon-to-be published book claiming that late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin had made a commitment to the US that Israel would withdraw from all of the Golan to the June 4, 1967 borders.

"These revelations prove that we were right when we charged that the [previous] government was prepared to withdraw from all of the Golan, even though the government denied it at the time," said Golan Residents Committee (GRC) spokesman

Uri Heimer. Heimer said he is cautious about some details in the book, because there appear to be some discrepancies, especially about Rabin's willingness to withdraw to the 1967, as opposed to the international border.

"It is also far from certain that the Syrians agreed to all the security arrangements demanded by Rabin. Nevertheless, it is clear, because we have this from so many different sources, that both Rabin and Peres were prepared for a complete withdrawal from the Golan," said Heimer.



Palestinians stream across a second Gaza crossing point for workers opened by Israel yesterday. The Sova checkpoint in the southern Gaza Strip will cut commuting time for between 800 and 900 Palestinians, who previously traveled to jobs in southern Israel through the northern Erez crossing. (AP)

High Court upholds Shetreet plan for Druse religious council

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice yesterday upheld the composition of a new Druse religious council. The council has been the subject of a court battle between different segments of the community for the past two years.

During these two years, the community has not only lacked a religious council, but its religious court of appeals also has been inoperative and its lower religious court has operated with only one kadi, since only the religious council can appoint kadis.

The previous, three-member Druse religious council dissolved after the 1993 death of the community's spiritual leader, Sheikh Amin Tarif. Then-religious affairs minister Yitzhak Rabin decided to replace it with a 45-member council, which would include the heads (*sa'isim*) of all 30 Druse houses of worship, plus 15 other religious leaders - seven chosen by the *sa'isim* and eight chosen by the minister.

Several petitions were filed against this decision, charging that it did not give adequate representation to secular Druse. The High Court ruled that the ministry should study the views of all factions involved, then decide whether to revise its decision.

After this information-gathering process, then-religious affairs minister Shimon Shetreet decided to change the composition of the council. He suggested a 60-member council composed of the 30 *sa'isim*, 15 appointees of the Druse local councils, and 15 members appointed by the minister, in consultation with the local councils and the *sa'isim*. However, this decision was also challenged by several petitions.

The petitioners argued that the decision gave a minority faction of the community - that headed by the Tarif family - control over the majority; did not provide adequate representation to secular Druse; and violated democratic principles, since the council members would not be elected. They wanted a council elected by all registered members of a house of worship, and even submitted a religious ruling by several dozen Druse scholars saying that ministerial appointments to the council would violate Druse law.

Other factions of the community supported Shetreet's plan, however, and submitted their own religious ruling, signed by 155 Druse scholars, saying appointments by the minister were okay, but elections would violate Druse law.

After several attempts to reach a compromise failed, Justices Eliezer Goldberg and Yitzhak Zamir, with Michael Cheshin dissenting, upheld the Shetreet plan. This plan gives some representation to both religious and secular factions, since the latter can attain seats either as the local councils' candidates or as the minister's appointees. Thus, even if it does not provide as fair a reflection of the community's make-up as elections would, it is not so unreasonable as to justify the court's interference, they said.

This is especially true given the

urgent need to appoint a religious council immediately, since Shetreet's system can be implemented much more quickly than elections, they said. Furthermore, the new council will only be in place for five years; during this time, the new minister can study the issue and introduce reforms if needed, they added.

Cheshin, in his dissent, argued that neither Rabin nor Shetreet had the authority to draw up new regulations, because they were never asked to do so by the Druse themselves. Furthermore, he said, the Shetreet system violates a fundamental democratic principle, and therefore should be replaced by elections, even if these will take longer.

IRAQ

no-fly zones established in north and south Iraq.

In Baghdad, the Iraqi News Agency quoted an Iraqi military spokesman as saying air defense units used artillery and missiles against US and allied warplanes over north and south Iraq yesterday. A Pentagon official said he could not confirm an attack on US flights in the south.

The SAM-6 surface-to-air missile, fired yesterday at two US F-16 jets, missed the planes and caused them no damage, Pentagon officials said. They had earlier said that two missiles were fired, but said information given by the pilots later indicated only one was involved.

SYRIA

renewal of the talks with Syria.

Natanyahu called his meeting with Clinton "open and like with family."

"There was chemistry between us, we clicked, it was an open, relaxed meeting," a Channel 1 reporter quoted him as saying.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister David Levy said that Syria is asking for more details about the "Lebanon first" proposal. In an interview published in the French daily *Le Figaro*, Levy said, "The Syrians have publicly rejected this proposal, but recently we have gotten certain indications they would like to have details about it."

Bedroom Conversations! Weizmann & Ben Gurion?

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The funeral of the late
Prof ZALMAN RUBINSTEIN
will take place today, Thursday, September 12, 1996,
at 2:00 p.m., at the Yarkon cemetery
The family

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Police are searching for this man who robbed a Tel Aviv bank last month. Anyone who recognizes him is requested to call the police at (03)-545-4414 or (03)-545-4418.

Police seek help in catching robber

TEL Aviv police have appealed to the public for help in identifying a bank robber who made off with NIS 10,000 from Discount Bank's Yehuda Macabbi Street branch in Tel Aviv on August 25. Part of the robbery, carried out by a man armed with a pistol, was filmed by the Compumedia company's new digital video recording system, Videowatch, which is currently being tested in several branches of

Hapoalim and Discount Banks. For over a year, banks have been debating whether to install expensive video systems to prevent robberies and identify perpetrators. Former Internal Security minister Moshe Shahal initiated discussions with the Bank Association and police, but so far no perma-

nent CCTV arrangements have been instituted, apparently because of the cost. There were four cameras in the Yehuda Macabbi branch, two of which recorded the robber's movements, the robbery and his exit. This is the first time that a bank robbery has been documented on video. Anyone with information on the theft is asked to phone (03)-545-4414 or (03)-545-4418.

Jeweler remanded for allegedly hiring hit man

A JERUSALEM jeweler, who allegedly hired someone to kill a relative of his for opening a jewelry store that competed with his own, was remanded yesterday for eight days in Jerusalem Magistrate's Court. The suspect, Raul Pe'er, allegedly contacted the hit man Monday night. In exchange for NIS 10,000,

they agreed the hit man would kill Guy Tatravili by faking a traffic accident and setting Tatravili on fire inside his car, according to police. Detectives, tipped off about the deal, detained both Pe'er and the man he hired later the same

night. Police declined to give details about the hit man, who was not remanded. Pe'er, 33, admitted having a dispute with Tatravili, but denied planning to kill him. Tatravili learned the trade while

working at Pe'er's jewelry store on Rehov Ben-Hillel. About three years ago, Tatravili opened his own jewelry store nearby, and since then the two have been in conflict. Police said they had complaints on record from Tatravili and his wife about past threats and attacks by Pe'er.

Bus driver gets 4 years for crash which killed 8

THE Jerusalem District Court yesterday sentenced Egged bus driver Haim Shmaryahu, 56, whose bus overturned while he was speeding, to four years' imprisonment plus two years' suspended sentence. The court also permanently revoked his license to drive buses, and suspended his license to drive a car for 12 years.

Last week, the court found Shmaryahu guilty of manslaughter and causing serious injury in the accident, which killed eight and injured 10. According to an investigation conducted after the accident occurred last October, Shmaryahu had been driving bus No. 487 at 108 kph in the rain on a steep, curvy part of the route between Jerusalem and Ein Gedi when he lost control of the bus.

Judge Yehudit Tsur declared that he had been speeding recklessly, considering the circumstances and the additional safety regulations that apply to bus

drivers. She said she imposed a stiff sentence because he had been driving a public bus and because of the high number of fatalities resulting from the accident. Furthermore, she said, the high fatality rate of traffic accidents requires that such crimes be dealt with severely.

Her ruling also took into consideration the injuries Shmaryahu received in the accident, and his agreement not to drive buses in the future.

"This is a very severe punishment, that will, without a doubt, serve as an important deterrent to Egged's drivers as well as all other drivers," Egged spokesman Ron Ratner said yesterday.

However, the sentence's harshness dismayed and shocked Egged, he added.

An internal Egged committee had found Shmaryahu guilty immediately after the accident and suspended him. (Itm)

Jewish Agency to launch aliya program in Germany

ABOUT 80 percent of the Jews from the former Soviet Union currently living in Germany are unemployed and the Jewish Agency is about to embark on a program to bring them to Israel.

Special emissaries will begin working with the community in Germany next month and many will be provided with on-the-spot training to enable them to find work in the Israeli market. Agency Treasurer Hanan Ben-Yehuda said yesterday. Ben-Yehuda, who visited the community during the summer, drew up the absorption plan which was endorsed by the recent meeting of the agency's Board of Governors.

"The [former Soviet] community is cut off from the remainder of the Jewish community in Germany and its members feel alienated," he said. "There are particular problems with the youth who cannot find their

BATSHEVA TSUR

place in schools and society." He said youngsters would be offered the possibility of joining the Na'aleh-16 program, under which youth come to study in Israeli boarding schools and are often followed by their parents.

Since the wave of Jewish emigration from the former Soviet Union began in late 1989, some 50,000 Jews settled in Germany. They were attracted by what they saw as cultural and climatic similarities and by welfare benefits offered by the German authorities.

"Before the end of 1989, there were 27,000 Jews in Germany. The former Soviet Jews have swelled their numbers to close to 80,000 and, if the trend continues, we expect the number to reach 100,000 at the end of the century. This makes Germany the third

largest Jewish community in western Europe, after Britain and France. This is a Zionist and moral issue of the first order," Ben-Yehuda said.

Meanwhile, the agency and the Absorption Ministry announced yesterday that 70,500 new immigrants have arrived in Israel since last Rosh Hashana, 58,000 of them from the CIS.

This brings the total of new immigrants since September 1989 to 746,500, of whom 641,580 came from the CIS. Another 250 new immigrants are expected to land here tonight in time for the New Year.

The number of North American immigrants in the past year was 2,800, and 2,200 came from Latin America. Some 4,300 Jews made aliya from Europe, not including the CIS, and 3,200 came from other places, the agency spokesman said.

Two officers convicted for bribing soldier to take blame for accident

COL. (res.) Moshe Galili, former commander of the IDF's National Rescue Unit, and Maj. (res.) Oded Saguy were convicted recently by the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court of fraud, breach of trust, obstructing justice and fabricating evidence for bribing a soldier to take the blame for a traffic violation. The charges, to which the two confessed, related to an incident which occurred while he two were on reserve duty. According to the conviction, Galili, 64, of Petah Tikva, and Saguy, 55, of Afula, paid NIS 1,000 to an IDF soldier to compensate him

for the affair. In July 1989, Galili was caught speeding on the Gheva Highway. Galili feared that his license would be revoked, so Saguy suggested that they get a soldier in their unit, Eyal Yakar, to take the blame and promised him they would pay the fine and get him transferred to the rescue unit for this reserve duty. The two were charged with fabricating evidence, as they wrote a letter to the army saying Yakar was speeding because he had been paged by his army beeper. This was

presented as evidence in court, and as a result a symbolic fine of NIS 50 was given. Later, Galili and Saguy were unable to transfer Yakar to their unit, and Yakar asked for NIS 2,000 in compensation. He later reported the entire affair to the authorities. Galili, who recently returned from Argentina where he was a Defense Ministry emissary, expressed regret in court. His attorney said he felt he was an Israeli hero who had been turned into a criminal. "I have been through a difficult time and have not accepted job offers because of my

shame and sorrow," Galili told the court. Saguy's attorney said his client had left the military after a 15-year career because of the incident. The defense attorney asked the court to give the two community service as punishment, while the prosecution asked for a sentence to be served through community service. The judge said he would issue his sentence at a later date, and in the meantime asked the two to present a community service proposal. (Itm)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Twelve-year-old boy killed by train
A 12-year-old boy was killed when he was hit by a train while he was crossing a railway track south of Nahariya yesterday. The spokesman for the Galilee police district said the youngster was cycling to school and failed to stop at the railway crossing barrier even though it was down because of the train on the track. David Rudge

Man tries to kill woman, commit suicide
A Nahal Iron man slashed the throat of a woman yesterday and then tried to commit suicide by stabbing himself. They were both listed as being in serious condition at Hadera's Hillel Yoffe Hospital yesterday. The man has a history of mental illness. Police said they are trying to determine the relationship between the two. Itm

Demand for fire victim committee
A committee of ministry directors-general should be set up to help the victims of last week's Jerusalem Corridor fire, the Knesset Economics Committee demanded yesterday. Meir Vizek, head of the Judea Regional Council, told the committee that a directors-general committee was set up after last year's big fire, and succeeded in solving all the problems to the residents' satisfaction. The residents would therefore like to see a similar committee this time, he said. Evelyn Gordon

Nine injured in clash between families
A fight broke out between two families in the Jabal Mukaber neighborhood of eastern Jerusalem yesterday morning, with nine people injured by stones and clubs before police arrived to break up the dispute, police said. Eight people were detained. The fight was apparently sparked by a dispute between the families over land, a police spokeswoman said. She added that in a search of the suspects' homes, an uzi machine gun and three cartridges were found, which were apparently fired during the clash. However, there were no injuries from the gunfire. Bill Hutman

State appeals sentence of baby-batterer
The state appealed to the Supreme Court yesterday against the lenient sentence given a man who battered his 40-day-old baby. The man was convicted by the Beersheba District Court of breaking the baby's bones in nine places over a two-and-a-half week period, as well as causing hemorrhaging. However, Judge Ruth Avrida sentenced him to only 33 months, saying the state had not succeeded in proving that the damage was the result of deliberate cruelty. In her appeal, State Attorney Edna Arbel argued that there was no way to explain so many serious injuries over an extended period of time as anything but deliberate cruelty, and therefore, the man deserved a much more severe sentence. Evelyn Gordon

Petition demands speeding ticket for Justice Dorner

SUPREME Court Justice Dalia Dorner, who was caught going 124 kilometers per hour in a 100-km/h zone, should be given a ticket for speeding just like anybody else, former Kach activist Noam Federman demanded in a petition to the High Court of Justice yesterday. Dorner was caught speeding on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway in early August, but the policeman who stopped her let her off with a warning. After this was publicized in the media, Federman complained to the

EVELYN GORDON

head of the traffic police, Asst.-Cmdr. Udi Efrati, who agreed that people driving at such a speed should be ticketed and fined, and said instructions to this effect had been given to all the traffic police. However, Efrati said he did not intend to change the policeman's original decision and give Dorner a ticket. Federman therefore petitioned the High Court, arguing that precisely because of her position as a

Supreme Court justice, who frequently sits in judgment on other people, the police must treat her as they would any other violator. Otherwise, he said, it will appear that there is one law for ordinary citizens and another for the powerful and important. There is no problem with giving her a ticket retroactively, he added, since this is done all the time. When the police photograph someone running a red light, for instance, they are often sent a ticket in the mail instead of being stopped at the time, he noted.

Reform movement: Police taking too much time in investigation of threatening phone calls

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE Reform movement has charged that the police are dragging their feet in efforts to identify the callers who made hundreds of threatening telephone calls to the movement's Israel Religious Action Center, from pay telephones in or near yeshivot in Jerusalem. In response, the police stressed the difficulties in identifying the callers, considering the yeshivot have hundreds of students who come and go at different times of the day. In a related development, Israel's Masorti Movement

charged that Nissim Ze'ev of Shas, head of the Jerusalem Municipality sites commission, had deliberately blocked allocating a site for a day care center which the movement wanted to set up in Pisgat Ze'ev. The commission had told the movement that it had to re-evaluate the needs of the neighborhood, but Rabbi Einar Rimon, spokesperson for the movement, noted that Ze'ev had boasted in the Jerusalem local press that the request would not pass because of the increased power of the haredim in the local government.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arab school to get more staff
Additional staff will be added to the Arab sector's only special education school so that 11 youngsters with severe hearing and/or vision impairments can study there, the Education Ministry said yesterday. Attorney Hassan Jabareen, representing the families, said he did not yet have this promise in writing, but was hopeful the children could start school as early as tomorrow. Originally, the ministry had refused to okay the extra staff due to lack of funds and ordered the children placed in regular schools. However, it reversed itself in response to Jabareen's complaint to the State Attorney's Office and press coverage. Evelyn Gordon

Burg to investigate reports about post-war distribution of stolen Jewish assets
Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg said yesterday he was investigating media reports of Swiss and British involvement in the post-World War II distribution of Jewish gold and assets plundered by the Nazis. Burg, who is currently in the US, said he would consider raising the issue at the next meeting of the Volcker committee looking into Holocaust assets. Meanwhile, in Jerusalem, Jewish Agency Treasurer Hanan Ben-Yehuda has written to Swiss President Jean-Pascal Delamuraz asking for his intervention in locating funds deposited not only by Jews but by the Nazis and their collaborators who looted assets from their Jewish victims. Jerusalem Post Staff

PA, Israel request Hebron observers remain
Acting Foreign Ministry Director-General Eitan Bentsur and the head of the Palestinian Authority's Steering Committee Saeb Erekat met in Jerusalem to sign a letter to be presented to Norway's Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs to request an extension of the Norwegian Observer Force in Hebron's mandate for one month. Jerusalem Post Staff

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Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu

and

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on their historic meeting and their determination to advance peace, tolerance and democracy.

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World hails UN approval of nuclear test ban

LONDON (Reuters) - World leaders yesterday welcomed UN approval of an atomic weapons test ban, but cautioned that obstacles remained on the road to nuclear disarmament, as India is blocking the treaty from becoming law.

US President Bill Clinton hailed the General Assembly's 158-3 Tuesday vote in favor of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), as did others among the five declared nuclear states - US, Russia, Britain, France, and China.

Clinton said the concerns of India, which says it opposes the treaty because it does not go far enough in spelling out a timetable for global nuclear disarmament, could be addressed.

"I believe we can find a way for the Indians to have their security concerns met," he said.

Of the three undeclared nuclear states believed to have atomic programs, India has vowed to oppose the pact, Pakistan says it will not sign as long as India refuses to do so, and Israel supports the treaty.

India exploded a nuclear device in 1974 and is one of the 44 nations which must ratify the CTBT for it to enter into force.

China, which on July 29 held what it said would be its last nuclear test before a self-imposed moratorium that took effect the

following day, welcomed the UN endorsement and took the rare step of urging worldwide accession to the pact.

"This undoubtedly conforms to the common interests of the entire international community," Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang was quoted by the Xinhua news agency.

Britain and France both said they would sign the test ban treaty at the earliest possible date on September 24. US officials said Clinton, who cancelled further US tests in 1993, also plans to sign the treaty then at the UN.

French President Jacques Chirac, who caused a furor a year ago by staging six atomic tests in the South Pacific, hailed the test ban treaty as a turning point in the arms race.

"This success should allow [the world] to turn the page of the nuclear arms race... For future generations, it opens the hope of a world freed from the threat of the proliferation of atomic weapons," a government spokesman quoted Chirac as saying.

European Union president Ireland said it welcomed the UN move, but Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring said in a statement: "This treaty is not the end of the process. There is a need for further systematic and progressive efforts

towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation."

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said: "We have jumped over one important hurdle on the way to a permanent ban on nuclear tests, but we have not yet reached our goal by any means. We may not be able to put the genie of the atom back into the bottle, but we have at least tamed it."

Japan, the only nation to suffer atomic bombing, led the chorus of praise among most Asian nations for the UN move.

"It is a big step forward," Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto told reporters. "From now on, the international community must make its utmost efforts to persuade India and other countries to accept the treaty."

Pakistan, which has fought three wars with neighboring India since 1947, says although it voted in favor of the treaty, it will not sign the CTBT unless India does the same.

Australia said the UN endorsement of the landmark test ban treaty was a vital move towards ridding the world of nuclear weapons, but stressed the treaty was not perfect.

Malaysia called on those opposed to the CTBT at the United Nations India, Libya, and Bhutan to rethink their positions.



A boy sitting on top of a car joins other Sarajevans in waving flags during a spontaneous demonstration in support of Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and his SDA party yesterday. Bosnia's first post-war elections are to take place on Saturday. (Reuters)

France torn over how to counter Le Pen's National Front

PARIS (Reuters) - The French political establishment was torn yesterday over how to counter the far-right National Front, after its leader Jean-Marie Le Pen openly espoused racial inequality.

Some political leaders advocated banning the party or taking it to court for inciting racial hatred, after the outspoken Le Pen said that racial differences are "a fact."

Others were arguing, however, over election law reforms expected to help the Front break into the National Assembly, where it now has no seats, in the 1998 general elections.

Mainstream politicians sounded in broad agreement, though, on their frustration over the Front's uncanny ability to grab the political spotlight and appear to thrive on bad publicity.

Triggering a fresh firestorm, Le Pen said on Monday: "To say that the races are unequal is a fact, an unremarkable statement." He cited

as an example the "obvious difference" between white and black athletes at the Olympics.

Former National Assembly speaker Henri Emmanuelli promptly called for the Front to be banned, and his Socialist Party later demanded that the government open a judicial probe of Le Pen's remarks. Inciting racial hatred is illegal under French law.

Justice Minister Jacques Toubon threw cold water on the opposition Socialist's plea, suggesting a ban is unconstitutional and urging instead that all politicians individually "fight against these ideas in the political arena."

"The National Front has been saying the same thing for a long time. Those who are now asking to ban it could have done so when they were in power," added Jean-Claude Gaudin, minister for territorial planning, urban affairs and integration.

In a bit of bad timing for the center-right government, Prime

Minister Alain Juppe had last week proposed a reform in election law that political analysts said would enable the Front to win a sizable bloc of seats in the National Assembly.

A major goal of the reforms appears to be an attempt at winning the Front's good will.

Angered by the government's perceived past wrongs, Le Pen has been routinely opposing all the ruling center-right's candidates, even when a Front candidate is not in the race.

The center-right is worried that the National Front could take enough votes from it in 1998 to hand control of parliament to the left, which governed until 1993.

Le Pen won 15 percent of the vote in last year's presidential elections.

Front official Alain Vizzier denied Le Pen knowingly set out to generate publicity over his views on racial differences, but acknowledged it would not surprise him if the party kept rising in opinion polls.

Man dives off bridge in dramatic rescue

HARRISON, New York (AP) - The rescue attempt meant a 46-meter swim down into the Hudson River, but volunteer firefighter Daniel Santos stopped only to leave his wallet with a bystander.

Yesterday, he was Page One news in New York and a hero.

Santos' Monday afternoon commute ended on the Tappan Zee Bridge, when a woman just ahead of him slammed her car into a railing, got out, and jumped into the river.

Santos, 21, reacted in what friends said was predictable fashion. He got out of his pickup truck, walked to the rail, left the wallet, looked over the edge, and dived in.

The drop left both Santos and the woman, Maria Cappozza, 24, of Greenwich, Connecticut, injured and semiconscious, but alive.

Saddam offers amnesty in bid to keep Kurds at home

SULAYMANIYAH, Iraq (AP) - Seeking to prevent an exodus of Kurdish refugees, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein yesterday declared a general amnesty for all Kurds and lifted barriers between Iraq and the Kurdish area that have been in place since the safe haven was set up at the end of the 1991 Gulf war.

Reassured, some Kurds returned to the northeastern city of Sulaymaniyah, filling the roads with trucks, tractor-pulled carts and pickup trucks.

Others, still nervous, flooded into the rugged hills of neighboring Iran, including leaders of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), the losers in a week of fighting in northern Iraq.

At the UN refugee agency in Sulaymaniyah, officials drastically lowered their refugee estimates from 300,000 on Tuesday to 50,000. In addition, about half of the 50,000 refugees have returned home, said an official who requested anonymity.

About 5,000 Iraqis have crossed the Basmaqaq border post into Iran, border guards said yesterday, and several thousand more are believed to have crossed elsewhere.

Those figures appeared to be in line, generally speaking, with the latest UN estimates.

There has been no fighting in northern Iraq since the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), backed by Iraqi troops, took control of the region Monday. As a result, many refugees who fled Sulaymaniyah have turned back and headed home.

However, Iran's official Teheran Radio said yesterday that "tens of thousands" of Iraqi Kurds had entered Iran and that aid workers are struggling to provide food, water, and medical care for them in temporary camps along the border.

"Half our family is here, half is there," said Miriam Hussein, a mother of seven children. "I sent two of my daughters this morning to the Iranian side to find my two sons who had fled. But none have returned. Now I have four children over there."

On the Iraqi side, a UN team was mobbed by refugees when it went to investigate the scene at the border.

Refugees desperate for help surrounded the UN vehicle and wouldn't let the officials leave for almost two hours, said one UN official.

In Sulaymaniyah, the KDP troops flaunted their new authority after capturing the city from their rivals, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

KDP fighters carrying AK-47 rifles rode through the streets in pickup trucks decorated with yellow flags and streamers. Women and children dressed in yellow the party color and merchants hastily plastered photographic pictures of KDP leader Massoud Barzani on store windows.

About 30 kilometers northeast of Sulaymaniyah, KDP fighters looted everything they could carry from the headquarters of the PUK.

Soldiers and villagers towed away air conditioners, wire, pipes, even light bulbs. One old man stumbled away with three fluorescent light tubes, a large ceramic urn, and a toilet seat.

At the nearby two-story villa of PUK leader Jalal Talabani, looters filled trucks with furniture not completely destroyed in a fire. KDP soldiers claimed Talabani ordered the blaze set when it was certain that the town would be overrun.

The one object that survived the fire unscathed was a large sculpture in front of the villa in the form of the PUK emblem: a hand grasping a red flower.

Talabani and dozens of his top commanders are among those who fled to Iran, according to border guards.

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Hurricane Hortense strengthens after pounding Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) - Hurricane Hortense strengthened yesterday over open waters and picked up speed as it moved away from Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, where it dumped up to 50 cm. of rain and left at least eight people dead.

The Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands were expected to bear the brunt of Hortense, which is moving northwest at 21 kph with dangerous 145 kph winds and torrential rains.

Those rains pounded eastern Puerto Rico with near-record amounts on Tuesday, flooding major streets and highways and sending rivers and creeks surging over their banks. A flood warning remained in effect yesterday.

Hortense cut water and electricity to most of Puerto Rico's 3.6 million people, destroyed more than 650 homes, and stranded hundreds of cars with chest-high water in San Juan, the capital.

A canal in southeastern Puerto Rico burst its banks Tuesday night and swept away a house with four people inside. Police said the four were missing and feared drowned.

Half the dead in Puerto Rico were children, including an 8-year-old girl swept from her father's arms as her 13-year-old sister drowned.

Residents watched the girls' father trying to save the younger child, only to have the surging water drag her from his hands. The sisters' bodies were found under a bridge. Four other family members were missing.

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Her heart belongs to Boris

VLADIKAVKAZ, Russia (AP) - Not only did President Boris Yeltsin win Zinaida Boliyeva's vote, he may have won her heart literally.

The 46-year-old woman has offered her heart to the ailing Yeltsin if he needs a transplant, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported yesterday.

Yeltsin is scheduled to undergo heart surgery at the end of September. Details have not been given, but it is expected he will have a bypass operation.

But if he needs a new heart, Boliyeva says he can have hers.

It is not "self-sacrifice, but a common-sense civic act," ITAR-Tass quoted her as saying.

Boliyeva, from Beslan in the Caucasus republic of North Ossetia, made the offer to the local office of the pro-government movement Our Home Is Russia and asked that it be conveyed to the head of the country's top cardiological clinic.

"The Russian president must have a healthy heart and a high working ability. He has to continue the course of democratic reforms and economic transformations which he has launched," she said, according to the report.

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הכרזת מלחמה

'Prayergonomic' chairs for the holidays

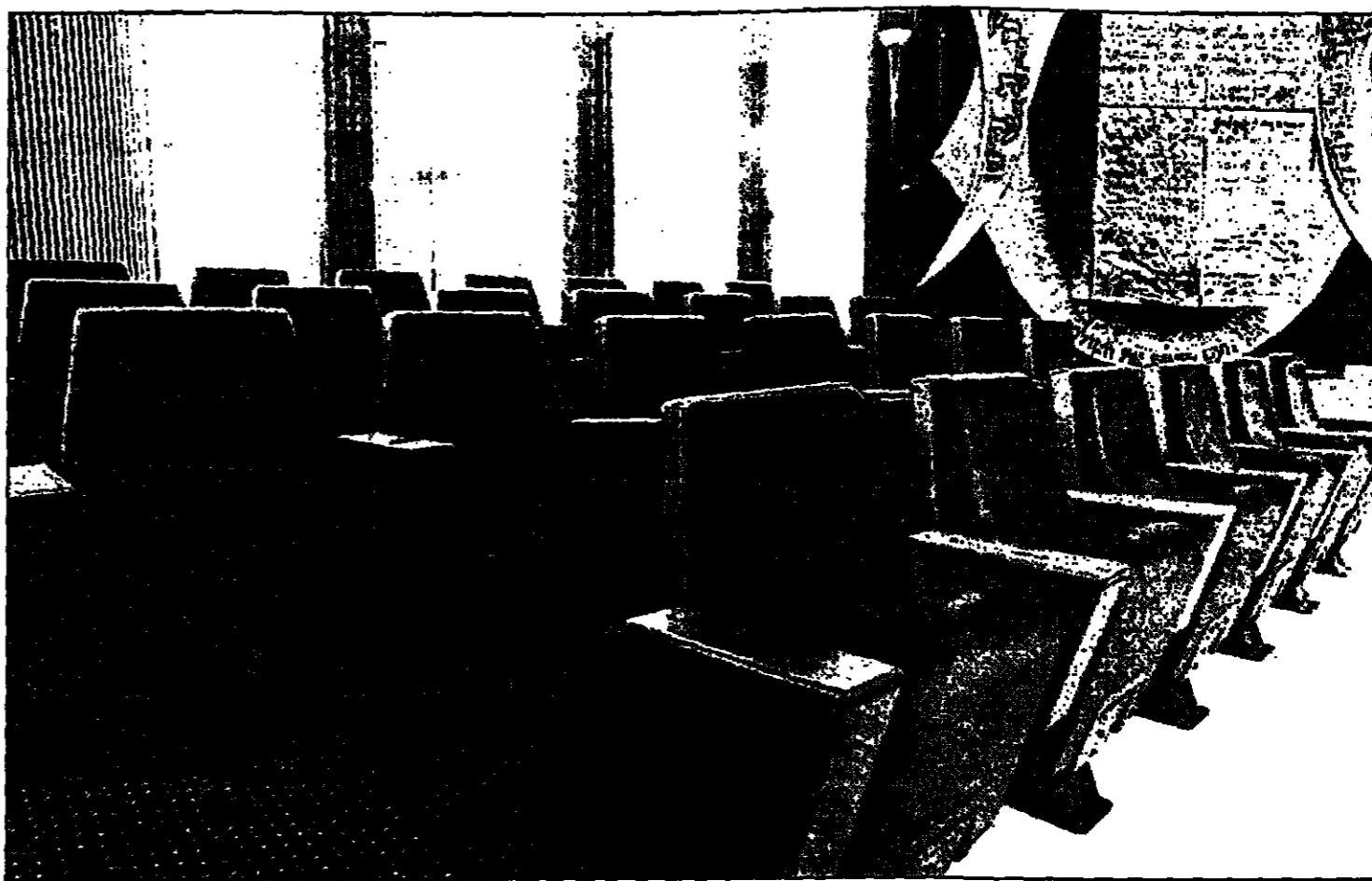
AMY KLEIN

I used to be that "buying a seat" for High Holy Day services was figurative: you were reserving a place in the synagogue for services. This year, however, some shul members are paying for the actual seat: new orthopedic seats specially designed for comfort while praying. Between Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur, Succot and Simhat Torah, people can spend as much as 50 hours in shul. That's 3,000 minutes of standing, shuffling, bowing, and finally, when the ark is closed, sitting. "Sitting for such a long time can cause many back problems," says Nitsan Zuriel, marketing manager of Tzora furniture, the company that designed the new prayer-gonomic chairs.

Tzora, the Jerusalem-area kibbutz-based company, is one of the biggest manufacturers of office furniture in the country, and the only ones which tailor-make office furniture to suit the clients' needs, working from the design of the furniture to the building to the upholstery.

Danny Burshine, an architect and interior designer, commissioned the furniture company to custom-make chairs for the new Heichal Mordechai synagogue he was designing in Herzliya Pituah. He wanted something different: seats that would be comfortable yet suit the specific needs of a synagogue. What they came up with was a chair based on those plush semi-reclining movie-theater seats, modified to suit synagogue purposes. "Movie seats are designed so that people look up, and will be comfortable," says Burshine. About the modifications, he adds, "we wanted comfortable seats, but we don't want people to fall asleep. We just want them to feel comfortable praying for a long time."

Like movie-theater seats, the chairs have plush cushioning for the seat and the back, but unlike movie-



Tzora's orthopedic chairs have plush cushioning for the seat and the back while the back of the chair is made of mahogany. (Harosh Grizinsky)

theater seats, the back of the chair is made of mahogany. "The wood was for the beauty a synagogue deserves," says Burshine, "and so that the people in the rows behind wouldn't scuff the upholstery of the seat in front of them."

They got down to the nuts and bolts of what people need in a synagogue. For example, people who get annoyed at the protruding piece of wood - used as a siddur stand - on the chairs of the preceding row will be pleased with the new chairs where the siddur stand is embedded

in the back, like airplane-seat trays for food. Other special features include the hollow armrests to hold siddurim, talitot, and goodies like candy bags with which to entertain the restless kids.

A lot more factors go into designing a synagogue than one might think (if one thinks about it at all). Chaim Klein, the head of the carpentry at Kibbutz Lavi which makes traditional shul furniture for over 1,700 shuls around the world from Australia to Andorra, says that first and foremost, shul furniture

must be functional: "People have to get up and sit down, go through the rows to go up to the ark, but be close enough to the row in front so that they can read from their siddur," he explained.

The Tzora seats take these details into account - with an emphasis on comfort. But comfort comes at a price: NIS 1,000 per chair. Heichal Mordechai ordered 300 new chairs for the new shul. Most of the money was raised through donations, but they hope to recoup some of the money in membership dues and, in

the one of the biggest money-makers of the year: seat for the High Holy Days.

At Heichal Mordechai the seats go for NIS 300 apiece. Apparently, the synagogue members think they're worth the price, because since its opening a few weeks ago, board member Eli Koobah says, "Every Shabbat more people come to synagogue that we haven't seen before."

They say: "Two Jews, three shuls." Let's just hope they all have comfortable seats.



Women's suits, like this one by Max Mara, have become popular as more women assume executive roles in the workplace.

Well suited

FLAIR
GREER FAY CASHMAN

SUITS are in the forefront of fall fashions, with pants suits carrying more thrust than skirts with jackets. Very businesslike, the premier choices are basic black, charcoal gray, café au lait, midnight blue, banker's stripes and herringbone tweeds.

The new fashion statements are in line with more women assuming executive roles in the workplace. The clothes they wear send out a clear signal that they want the respect which their positions merit. They do not want to be whistle bait, nor do they want to look too feminine: in softly cut maxiskirts. They want everyone to know who's calling the shots, and they're choosing clothes with an assertive image.

The pants are straight but not tight, and the jackets, though lean, are not clinging. Those women executives who still prefer skirts to pants are opting for mid-length and knee-grazing lengths to ensure that the attention of male colleagues will not be diverted by their legs.

Black, relieved by white, and

occasionally by silver and other metallics, is also the strong color for both casual and formal wear.

Outside of the conference room, styles run the gamut from classic minimalism to minimal fabric. The more revealing outfits feature see-through bodices and sleeves on both blouses and dresses, and in more casual creations, focus on navel exposure in cropped tops and skin tight drop-waisted pants.

Skirt lengths also take a hike, often to the extent of indecency (if there is still such a thing).

For the classically inclined, ensemble dressing has resurfaced with tie-front, trench and clutch coats paired with slim-fitting, high-necked sleeveless dresses. These totally understated dresses are an absolute must for the fall/winter wardrobe. They are flattering to almost everyone, look great with or without jewelry and serve as an important base for endless variety as they can easily be paired with shawls, capes, cardigans, jackets and coats. Orthodox women will probably wear them over ribbed turtle-neck sweaters.

Canadian vodka that's at the tip of an iceberg

EXPORTING Canadian vodka to Russia? Sure enough, one shipment has been sent, and Ron Stamp hopes it's only the tip of the iceberg. Literally.

Stamp is managing director of Canadian Iceberg Vodka, formed last year to produce vodka made with water from the icebergs that float past Newfoundland's coast each spring and summer.

The water, melted aboard an iceberging-catcher/tanker, is probably the purest in the world and just about the oldest, according to Stamp. He says the bergs are at least 12,000 years old.

Production began last October at a plant run by Newfoundland's liquor authority, with alcohol and water supplied by Stamp's company. He projects an output of 30,000 twelve-bottle cases for the first year of operation.

The alcohol comes from corn grown in Ontario, but the water is produced aboard a 67-meter tanker equipped with a crane-like device on the front that can bite into an iceberg.

The berg is hoisted over the forward deck and dropped into a crushing machine. The crushed ice is then shifted into a melting tank; about 1 million liters of water can be stored on board.

Stamp, 42, who used to work in Newfoundland's most famous industry - the fish business - first thought about exploiting icebergs after reading about a never-realized proposal to tow huge icebergs to Saudi Arabia to be melted into water. "Unless God is your cousin, you aren't getting an iceberg to Saudi Arabia no matter what," Stamp

said. "So I thought, 'Why not break them up and melt them here?'"

Stamp initially wanted to produce bottled drinking water from the bergs, but that project required more capital. So he started with the vodka production, because manufacturing facilities were provided by the provincial liquor corporation.

Canadian Iceberg Vodka already has made its first splash in Russia, exporting 15,000 bottles to the Black Sea city of Odessa. Stamp finds it ironic that this export to the heartland of vodka occurs at a time when Newfoundland fish plants, crippled by the collapse of local cod stocks, have been forced to import Russian codfish.

Stamp isn't sure yet how big the Russian demand for iceberg vodka will be, but he is hopeful. "For some of the moneyed people

there, it's a bit of a status symbol to have Western goods," he said.

In Canada, the new vodka is being sold at roughly the same price as Smirnoff and Absolut, even though Stamp says it costs somewhat more to produce.

In September, a separately organized company will begin producing iceberg water. Stamp is vice president for sales of that firm. He hopes the drinking water will catch fire among consumers concerned about product purity.

Spinoff products are likely, he said: iceberg beer and iceberg iced tea. And even just plain ice cubes - two shipments of cubes already have been sent to Japan and South Korea, aimed in part at drinkers of premium Scotch who don't want to dilute their drinks with run-of-the-mill ice. (AP)

Horseradish heaven

THE eve of Rosh Hashana was once a time of tears for women like Morris Gold's mother and grandmother. Rosh Hashana meant gefilte fish, and gefilte fish meant horseradish - the powerful condiment that stings the eyes and clears the sinuses.

Gold, 77, recalls his grandmother "sitting on a milk crate by the window of our Brooklyn apartment, peeling 'beets' and his mother nearby cutting up horseradish. Both of them would be crying.

Housewives (and husbands) at the turn of the 21st century need not cry over horseradish anymore - mostly because of the Gold family, by far America's largest purveyors of bottled horseradish. "We'll do the crying for you," proclaims Morris Gold.

Gold's began in 1932 with Morris's father Hyman, an immigrant from Poland. After a cousin who grated vegetables in front of a storefront in the borough of Brooklyn became embroiled in a dispute with his landlord and was tossed into jail, Hyman bailed him out and wound up with the discarded grinder. He took it home to wife Tillie and, from their apartment, they decided to grind horseradish and sell it on the streets of Brooklyn.

"My father went out in the neighborhood and would take orders for three jars here and four jars there and we kids would deliver them by bicycle," recalls Morris, who built the business to what it is today with brothers Manny and Herb.

"One time I gave away an extra bottle after selling a case [24 bottles] and my father yelled at me because that was the profit, that 25th jar. After all, this was in the middle of the Great Depression."

Later came the special jars, modern machinery and a main production plant in Brooklyn, which functioned from 1956 to 1994.

Now, Gold's has accounts in virtually every US state (Hawaii, yes; Alaska, no). He also sends horseradish to Israel, England, Australia, Brazil, South Africa and Russia.

Now reaching into a fifth generation of Gold's, the privately held firm estimates its share of the US market at about 70 percent, with annual sales between \$5m and \$20m.

"Fresh, fresh, fresh," my father has always preached to me," Morris's son Marc says over the din of machinery in the company's Long Island plant, where 34,000 kilograms of horseradish roots are ground and bottled each day. "That's the key to our success."

A combination of the grated horseradish root with vinegar and salt (with beets for the less-strong, red version) is all there is to the mixture that has been called everything from magic jizir to aphrodisiac.

"People are uneducated about horseradish," explains Marc, 48, who runs the business with other Steve and cousins Neil and Howard, all



Marc Gold, co-owner of Gold's, the leading US horseradish maker, holds a bunch of horseradish roots, the source of his firm's main product at its Hempstead plant. (AP)

of whom have had their teenage daughters working summers at the plant for the last couple of years. "Since you can enjoy it on virtually any type of food, the uses for it are unlimited."

Though mostly known for use around Rosh Hashana and Pessah, horseradish also has strong sales for Easter, Christmas and Thanksgiving. "Horseradish is by no means just a Jewish item," adds Marc, a true horseradish evangelist.

Named for "galloping roots" which grew in the wilds of Eastern Europe, horseradish comes mostly from the Midwest and Eastern Canada. The gnarled roots are shipped to Gold's in burlap sacks or 585-kilogram wrapped pallets and are kept in a storage room at 1 degree Celsius.

The horseradish is shredded, mixed with salt and vinegar and then crammed into Gold's patented six-sided glass jars at a rate of 180 jars per minute. It takes about 2 minutes for an empty 168-gram jar to be filled, capped, labeled, sealed and boxed. (AP)

Ramat Hasharon couple encounters an 'electrifying' saga

FOR over 30 years, Mr. and Mrs. R. have been living at the same Ramat Hasharon address. They have always paid their electricity bills on time. Their last November/December bill for NIS 139.31, was no exception. Imagine their horror, then, upon receiving a corrected bill for the above for NIS 3,236.10!

Mr. R. promptly took himself over to the Ra'anana office of the Israel Electric Corporation (IEC) listed at the head of the bill. There, he was informed that his meter had not been read for three years. During this time, he was told, his electricity consumption had been higher than what he'd been paying.

"Perhaps the meter is defective," suggested Mr. R. But he was assured that the meter - installed in 1961 by the Palestine Electric Corp. - was in tip-top shape. Nevertheless, he insisted upon having the equipment examined.

When two IEC technicians finally arrived at his home (after several persistent phone calls from Mr. R.), they diagnosed the meter as "accurate." Mr. R. then returned to Ra'anana to work out a lenient payment arrangement for the huge sum. There, he was told that he could pay in three installments: the first immediately, and the second and third post-dated a month and two months hence. Upon returning home, Mr. R. mailed the checks.

When his next bill arrived, Mr. R. discovered a NIS 40 charge for his post-dated check. "My overdraft cost," he subsequently wrote to the IEC Ombudsman, "would have been less."

On May 27, Mr. R. received a hand-written notice from the IEC confirming that his meter was in fact defective, due to lightning. Enclosed was an additional bill for NIS 2,477.02, and a warning that his electricity would be shut off if he failed to pay this sum by May 28 - the following day.

On May 28, Mr. R. tried several times, unsuccessfully, to reach Mr. Cohen (the name on the hand-written notice) at the IEC accounts department in Ra'anana. On May 29, election day, the company was closed. On May 30, Mr. R. drove

accordingly.

3. ...the regional IEC office in Ra'anana has a toll-free "telemeter" number for phoning in meter-readings 24 hours a day: 177-022-3820 ... to be performed every even-numbered month, between the 10th and 15th of the month.

4. ...lightning caused one of the phases in your home to burnout, resulting in your having been charged for only 2/3 of your actual consumption... (In spite of the fact that the new meter installed indicates a higher consumption rate), the IEC office in your area has decided to exempt you from payment of the difference for the period during which the original meter did not register full consumption.

5. ...the NIS 40 charge for post-dated payments constitutes interest.

Mr. R.'s "electrifying" saga should serve as a lesson. Compare your estimates to your actual consumption. Otherwise, you may end up getting stuck having to come up with a wad of cash to cover back payments over long periods of time. Phone the regional IEC headquarters in your region for details of how to offer your reading.

Important notice: there is no truth to the rumor which has been circulating about having to pay double or triple for a phonecall dialed without the extra digit!

You are invited to offer personal stories about goods and services in this country. Write to: Ruthie Blum, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

CAVEAT EMPTOR!
RUTHIE BLUM

to Ra'anana to confront Mr. Cohen. But Mr. Cohen was on reserve duty for the day.

The frustrated Mr. R. finally wrote a detailed letter of complaint to the IEC, demanding exemption from the last charge. After all, if it weren't for his insistence on having the meter checked, the corporation would have gone on losing revenue. Furthermore, he feels that it was negligence on the part of the IEC not to have read his meter for three years.

The IEC responded to Mr. R. as follows:

1. Due to the indoor location of your meter, attempts at reading your consumption were unsuccessful for a long period of time.

2. In December 1995 ... a regular reading was performed ... according to which a new calculation was made for your actual consumption [as opposed to that for which you were charged on the basis of previous estimates]. The bill you received for NIS 3,236.10 constituted the sum you owed us in the difference. By the way, every electricity bill ... lists "type of reading" to enable the customer to know whether the meter was actually read or whether an estimate was made ... the customer can thus compare the estimate on his bill to the reading on his meter. If there are major discrepancies [between the two], the customer can inform the [electric] company

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The unequal burden

AN epidemic that has plagued Israel in recent years but which received little or no attention has now come out into the open. Suddenly, even the IDF general staff is willing to admit what has for a long time been increasingly obvious to just about everyone in the country: motivation to serve in the reserves has dropped.

Evading reserve duty and, in some cases even compulsory military service, is now regarded in many circles as respectable. As a result, it may soon be a struggle to gather enough reservists to field the minimal amount of soldiers needed for some units. The danger this potentially poses for a country living in the same neighborhood as Iraq and Syria goes without saying.

The statistics on the issue, some of them only recently made public, confirm what many sensed about the attitude toward reserve duty. A poll conducted by the IDF's behavioral science branch reveals that 50 percent of Israeli men would not show up for reserve duty if they were not forced to do so.

Tens of thousands of reservists are putting this into practice by finding ways to evade service, some by finding numerous excuses to keep them away each year and others by persuading the military to lower their medical profiles so they are permanently removed from the reserve force. There are apparently 15 percent more men leaving the reserves each year than entering it. Of those remaining in the potential reserve pool, only some 16.5 percent carry most of the burden of active reserve duty.

The forum of reserve brigade and battalion commanders established on Tuesday to combat the drop in motivation is a welcome addition to the other public figures who are devoting time and effort to deal with this problem. The IDF's recent decision to establish a desk, headed by a major-general, to attempt to turn back the trend among young soldiers is a similarly positive step. The willingness to recognize a problem is always a first step to correcting it. But it is not clear how effective these bodies can be in isolation.

The reasons for large-scale shifts in public values and attitudes are extremely complex and probably never fully understood. Some of the causes that have been suggested include the fact that Israel hasn't been faced with an existential threat since the Yom Kippur War. An entire generation of men in their twenties and thirties has been raised with the idea of the army being no more than an unpleasant "infada" police force. And the idea propagated in some circles that Middle East peace agreements will make war obsolete has undoubtedly contributed to

public attitudes toward military service.

Others claim that the drop in motivation is a natural process in a society that is increasingly cultivating individualistic values and rejecting its socialist past. Another opinion, pointing to the increasingly strong sense of motivation and volunteerism exhibited in the army by soldiers from a national-religious background, blames the secular educational system for teaching "post-Zionism" in place of more traditional lessons. A virtual platoon of academic experts in a variety of disciplines could debate the issue, but it is unlikely they could propose any practical suggestions for reversing deep social trends.

However, even if the underlying causes prove difficult to deal with, some of the more immediate and obvious problems can and should be corrected. To begin, the IDF itself could start by clearing up its own house.

It has been an open secret for at least a decade that an individual who truly wants to evade service, or serve in a non-combat role, can find ways of doing so, either by insisting that his profile be lowered or regularly proffering flimsy excuses for escaping his duties. The military, operating under the theory that a soldier lacking motivation but who is forced to serve is more trouble than he is worth, quietly cooperated with such individuals. This has now come back to haunt the army as the increasingly unfair burden on those who do their reserve duty has fed resentment and lowered general motivation.

The high salaries paid to career officers, compared with the sacrifices asked of reservists, has also affected attitudes, as have the sheer inefficiencies and bureaucratic heaviness exhibited by the IDF. The number of new recruits entering the army has increased tremendously in recent years, yet structural changes taking advantage of these increases proceed at a glacial pace. Fair burden-sharing would go a long way to repairing the military's image.

For many years the army has been considered a disorganized, uncaring and unnecessarily unpleasant place to be, almost as a fact of nature. But it doesn't have to be that way. Army service will never be a frolic at a resort, but the citizens from whom so much is asked will appreciate being honestly told, "Gentlemen, we have difficult tasks to perform which may not always be pleasant, but we will make every effort to try to get them done as painlessly and fairly as possible." By adopting such an approach, the IDF might discover that even in an individualistic society, a sense of shared accomplishment can be attained from sharing in reserve duty.



Saddam's master plan

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

TOGETHER with his 30-year-old younger son Qusay Saddam Hussein has spent the last 18 months plotting to regain control of the Kurdish northern areas of Iraq and at the same time deal US President Bill Clinton a massive diplomatic defeat.

The third prong of his initiative was to warn of an attempt by his arch-foes, the mullahs of Teheran, to bring him to his knees by playing their "Kurdish card."

Saddam's secret weapon was to use that underestimated younger son of his. Since the Iraqi ruler distrusts his official heir, his firstborn Uday, he has concentrated all eight of his police and internal security services in Qusay's hands.

Quietly and with ruthless determination, Qusay unraveled the CIA plan to penetrate Iraq by planting a crack squad of US agents among the Kurds. He also revealed that members of the elite 40,000-strong Saddam Fedayeen Unit had been bribed by the CIA to assassinate his father.

Ruthlessly the Iraqi dictator arrested dozens of these plotters, tortured them and massacred those who survived brutalities such as being forced to rape each other. Those no longer able to obey were slowly mutilated before dying.

The whole episode was a blow to Qusay's big brother Uday, who was commander of the Fedayeen.

The above information was revealed to this column in London by a French diplomatic source, who added: "The CIA should have understood what Saddam was up to from the bombing at Dhahran in Saudi Arabia a couple of months ago."

"Everyone immediately jumped to the conclusion that the Iranians were behind the terrorist attack on the American base. Our own information was that Saddam sent the explosive to his own agents [in Saudi Arabia] via his staging post in North Yemen."

"There were smiles in Baghdad when all the accusing fingers pointed toward Teheran," said the diplomat. He was quoting French sources who deal with Saddam in Baghdad.

The behavior of the Saudi royal family, the diplomat went on to say, was a clear signal of what was going on in the background. "The Saudis refused to cooperate with the dozens of FBI specialists flown to investigate the bombing. They even gave the FBI deliberately misleading information about 'Iranian' conspiracies to attack all US forces in the Gulf region."

The reason for this was clear, we were told. The Saudis see Iran as their major threat in the Middle

East. So they wanted the mullahs blamed.

They fear that the US plan is to kill Saddam Hussein. Then, when in the ensuing chaos the country splits up, Iran would get the opportunity to seize part of it — the area covering the major oil reserves. This is the reason the Iranians have been giving financial and weapons support to the PUK Kurdish faction there as a step in increasing its influence in Iraq.

At the same time Iraqi diplo-

The Iraqi dictator mocks Clinton for a loser as he slowly swallows up the Kurds

mats have been making a discreet but determined effort during the past year both in the Middle East and Europe to undermine the allied coalition established in 1991 by the US to launch the massive onslaught against Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait.

THE BAIT dangled in Europe was the promise of vast deals with European industrialists once the oil embargo against Baghdad was lifted.

"The most enthusiastic client proved to be the French," we were told by a British intelligence source in London. "The French are convinced that the Anglo-Saxons don't understand the Arab mentality. And the mouth-watering profits in store for them in Iraq have even caused them to agree to supply material and know-how to enable Saddam to achieve his dream of acquiring atomic weapons."

"The French are convinced that Iraq today has a weak leadership that wouldn't have the nerve to destroy another French-supplied atomic reactor, as it did 15 years ago." Tycoons and financiers from Paris have thus been very active in Baghdad for the past two years.

It didn't take very much pressure from Teheran to persuade the French to express vigorous opposition to President Clinton's move to punish Saddam Hussein. They even refused the US request that they join the broadened air patrols exclusion area in the south of the country.

The French also tried to per-

suade other European powers to attack the US decision to interfere with the "national sovereignty" of another country (the French way of describing the Clinton decision to send American missiles to destroy some Iraq radar sites).

To make absolutely sure the US would be neutralized, Saddam, via Qusay's security chiefs, employed Britain's "divide and rule" policy regarding the Kurds. He bribed Massoud Barazani, leader of the Kurdish KDP group, to be his ally in invading and conquering the entire Kurdish area of the country.

Two days ago the Saddam-equipped KDP army conquered the major town of Suleimaniyah, routing all Kurdish opposition, who fled for safety to Iran. To complete Saddam's triumph the entire CIA operation in the country was wiped out. US agents fled in helicopters. Their local operatives betrayed to Qusay months ago were arrested and slaughtered.

Saddam's triumph was total. "The Kurds under Barazani will be given a certain amount of autonomy for a while," said the British security official. "But they have sealed their own fate. In a year there will be a total takeover by Saddam and the Kurds' dream of independence will vanish like a desert mirage. Iran's Kurdish ally, the PUK, has been wiped out."

A Kurdish source in London told us yesterday: "It's a disaster for the Kurds. Saddam will swallow our entire nation within a year."

"Saddam's greatest triumph," the British official told us, "is that the Desert Storm alliance Clinton inherited from George Bush has collapsed ignominiously. Only Britain and Israel have stood by the US loyally."

"Clinton may claim that he has taught Saddam a lesson he will never forget. But the whole operation was a US failure and, above all, a humiliation for the CIA."

Added the British official wistfully: "If only the Israelis' effort to kill Saddam with a crack squad using advanced rocketry had been put into operation. We had reports that the trial run failed because of carelessness at their Tze'elim base three years ago."

"They might bitterly regret not putting the project into operation for Saddam Hussein is riding high now. His ambitions are clearly as maniacal as ever, particularly with the French once more backing him to the hilt."

POSTSCRIPTS

A GRUMPY old man left \$70,000 in his will to five store clerks who befriended him during his daily trips to their supermarket in Marietta, Georgia.

"He came in one time with one sock on, one sock off," recalled Jeannette Peeks, a clerk at the store where Dr. James Glenn Dudley, 85, met friends each morning for breakfast.

"He was sort of a mean old man, and I liked him for it," Peeks said. "Like, he told me I was too fat. He was kind of bossy, very particular about things."

Some time after Dudley died, a man arrived at the store and handed Peeks and three co-workers checks for \$10,000 each. Jesse Gray, who carried his groceries, inherited \$30,000.

TWO SWEDISH cats caused \$45,000 worth of damage after flooding their owner's house while locked up in the bathroom. Crestfallen owner Roger Sjoberg said he had come home to find the house flooded and two frightened cats sitting on the shower taps.

"We normally lock them up in the bathroom to stop them wrecking the place while we're out," he said.

People panic

GWYNNE DYER

CITIES are monsters and bad for your health.

They are impersonal and alienating. And the bigger they get, the worse they are.

That is what the Habitat II Conference on Human Settlements held recently in Istanbul implied.

But it's nonsense. The conference, sponsored by the United Nations, was based on a report produced by the UN Development and Environment Programs, the World Bank and the World Resources Institute.

At the beginning of this century, the report's authors point out, only five percent of the world's people lived in cities of over 100,000.

In a single century we have completely reversed that situation. Forty-five percent of the world's people now live in big cities. In Istanbul's heyday, it was one of only two cities on the planet that reached a million people. By 2015, the world will contain around 560 cities with more than a million people, and dozens with over 10 million.

The UN report is studded with panicky factsoids that, on closer inspection, turn out to be no cause for panic.

For example, we are told that soon 80 percent of the world's big-city dwellers will live in "Third World" countries. But if the rest of the world is going to follow a path of economic development anything like that once traveled by the West, what else would you expect? The "Third World" is where 80 percent of the world's people live.

Cities are where almost all innovation happens, because they, and only they, contain a critical mass of people with different experiences and differing perspectives. Their populations are generally better-educated and healthier than those of the rural areas around them, because it is easier to provide services to concentrated groups of people. So why are cities seen as the problem, not the solution?

One reason is that when cities grow fast, huge slums and even street-sleepers proliferate. It looks horrifying, and it feels hopeless.

But this is generally a transitional phenomenon: visit the areas that were squatter settlements 30 years ago in Istanbul, or Manila, or Rio, and you will find

Why the scare about cities? They're the best places to be

that most of the dwellings have been steadily upgraded until they provide decent shelter. In many older areas, the residents now have water, electricity, and even sewers — while raw new shantytowns go on springing up around them. This is how cities have always grown.

THE OTHER reason is a panic about sheer numbers. "Megacities" of 20-million-plus proliferating across what used to be the Third World sound rather frightening: Charles Dickens meets Blade Runner.

And this image persists even though the world's biggest city, Tokyo, at 24 million, is also its most orderly.

Somewhat, nobody believes that Jakarta or Shanghai or Sao Paulo can achieve the same result when they reach a similar size, but why not? They are pretty orderly now. And hardly anybody understands that this is not runaway, limitless growth. There is a ceiling.

In small countries, up to a third of the population may wind up in the national metropolis: Stockholm, Athens, Auckland. In compact middle-sized countries like Japan, France, South Africa or Britain, the biggest city may amount to 15 or 20 percent of the population, but rarely more. And in very large countries like the US, Russia, India and China, the biggest city never exceeds five-10 percent of the population.

In rapidly developing parts of the world, many new mega-cities are now growing rapidly toward that limit, just as London, New York, and Tokyo did during their own growth spurts. But then they will stop — and shortly afterwards, around 2040, global population growth will probably coast to a halt around the 10 billion mark.

So many people and so much consumption may put intolerable stresses on the natural environment, but don't blame the cities. And don't worry too much about them either. They are, on the whole, the best-run parts of the planet.

The writer is a London-based independent journalist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GENERAL AIR OF UNREALITY

Sir, — If Larry Derfner's interview with Professor Shlomo Ben-Ami ("Back to the vision thing," Money, August 28) is meant to be a serious exposition of the "neo-social-democratic" point of view, then the conservative and free-market school has very little to worry about. The interview is replete with contradiction, lack of understanding and plain foolishness.

Although the interview is basically polemical, some specific points are made that need to be addressed. 1. The capital gains tax. Ben-Ami favors a capital gains tax. At present some capital gains are taxed, some of them at full individual tax rates (up to 30 percent), and some are not. I assume that Ben-Ami wants to tax gains on the stock market, which are now tax-free for most individual investors, but not for companies and those who buy and sell shares in the way of business.

The value of a share at any given time reflects the past performance (past profits) of the company in question and the public's expectations of future performance (future profits). On both, income tax is paid in full. The share price reflects the value of the company after taxes are paid. Taxing the increase in value of shares when they are transferred from one investor to another is double taxation of the same basic income.

To see taxation of stock markets as the righting of some terrible social injustice is to misunderstand the sources of economic wealth. Economic wealth is created (and taxed) in the conduct of business and not in the transfer of ownership.

Sir, — Mr. Arafat's condemnation of Israel and the Netanyahu government and his statements about a "declaration of war" should actually come as no surprise, dangerous though his statements may be. It has less to do with Mr. Netanyahu's accession to the Prime Minister's Office than it does with Mr. Arafat's failure to deliver to his people what he promised — a better economy, a better way of life, and a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. He has failed miserably on all counts, from all reports, and he will

2. National Insurance Institute taxes. The programs of NII are financed partly by NII levies on wages, and partly by government contributions whose source is general tax revenues of the government.

For some decades now, proponents of reform have pointed out that the structure of NII levies is very seriously regressive. NII taxes are levied on wages only, and not on income from capital, such as rent, interest, dividends, etc. Furthermore, there is a ceiling, or upper limit, on the wage tax, so that high salaries, above the ceiling, are taxed at a lower percentage rate than low salaries.

One would expect that the neo-social-democratic position would vigorously favor abolishing regressive NII levies and support the financing of NII programs solely from the government's tax revenues, which are collected progressively, on all income, from labor and capital. But in fact, Ben-Ami is for abolishing the government's contribution, which for some reason he sees as a subsidy to employers. He prefers wage taxes.

3. Grants for capital investment. An almost infinite number of studies and researchers have proven beyond reasonable doubt that the programs for encouragement of capital investment (since 1951) have contributed little to Israel's economic development, but have generated a good deal of economic distortion, waste of resources, especially capital, bureaucracy and other ills.

An interesting recent example is provided by Intel's new plant in Kiryat Gat. The government's (Le-

the taxpayer's) contribution to this project is \$600 million will buy us 1,500 new jobs, or \$400,000 per job. According to statistics of the Bank of Israel and the Productivity Institute, the average investment in the business sector in Israel is \$60-70,000 per job. If the same \$600 million were invested in Israeli industry generally, it would generate almost 10,000 jobs, rather than 1,500.

The grants to capital investment are in fact a direct subsidy of capital and of investors, and might expect Ben-Ami to be strongly and unequivocally against them. Instead, he wants to continue these programs and even opposes a reduction of the grants from 34% to 20% of total investment.

The key to the contradiction between Prof. Ben-Ami's neo-social-democratic outlook and his position on specific economic points can be found in his criticism of the Labor Party. He says, quite correctly, that the Labor Party "had become elitist, both culturally and economically. Labor's entire milieu came to be dominated in recent years by the business community and the affluent population." Unfortunately, in his stand on economic issues, Ben-Ami is at one with the Labor Party.

When he says, finally, that the state is not a bad thing (most people in the world think the state is at best a necessary evil) we recognize the Labor Party's traditional outlook — Big Business, Big Labor and Big Government. In short, the corporate state.

JACK MENES
Jerusalem.

Jerusalem available for discussion. Arafat would not have been able to make promises he couldn't possibly have kept. It might have made it more difficult for him in the beginning, but it would have made a peaceful end more possible. And now, the only thing he feels is left to him is threats of violence, at least some of which will be carried out — against Jews here in Israel, and possibly abroad as well.

SUSAN CHASIN
Gaa Yavne.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



When man's best friend is built like this, you don't have to worry about enemies. (Aliza Auerbach)

Bo...
D...
Prohibitio...
Deng's...
Atten...
Going A...
If you want to...
please inform us...
when calling or faxing...
number, and the date...
Jerusalem 02-5315610
Fax 02-5389017
Thank you!

Bow out of the tango



DEAR Ruthie, My younger brother went into the family business, while I pursued a career as an artist, with very little income from my profession. I receive a hefty income from a trust set up for me by my father. My problem is my brother. We've always had problems getting along, but now that he's handling my money, it's much worse. Every time I need cash, I am forced to ask him for it. This enables him to lecture me on how irresponsible I am. I admit that he never denies me what is rightfully mine, but the power he has over me has gone to his head. When I confronted him, he said I was welcome to handle my own money, and leave him out of it. The trouble is that I have no head for investments, so I guess I'm stuck in this situation.

DEAR RUTHIE
RUTHIE BLUM

Sizzling Sister
Somewhere in the USA
The way to "get" him to stop treating you in a manner you do not accept, is to bow out of the tango which is entangling the two of you. In this case, there seem to be two "dances" in which you and your brother are partners: the old "sibling salsa," and the more recent "power polka" - the steps of which you learned when your little brother became your "big brother" - financially speaking. As long as you allow his jobs at your alleged irresponsibility to drive you wild, you will continue to be driven wild, just as he will continue to lecture. And as long as you lean

on his entrepreneurial expertise for your financial security, you will remain in an "inferior" position, where money is concerned. The choice to leave your income in your brother's hands can be based on prudence, if the "pros" of this option outweigh the "cons." But you may have to learn to swallow the slights with a bit more emotional distance.

Dear Ruthie,
When is it appropriate to introduce my nine-year-old daughter to a man I've been dating? I've been extremely careful only to see him when my daughter is with her father, but there comes a point at which this behavior is deceptive on my part. On the other hand, I wouldn't want her to grow attached to someone,

and then have to go through another breakup.
In Dilemma about Dating
Tel Aviv area

Dear Dater-in-Dilemma,
The point at which introducing your daughter to your date becomes appropriate depends on the degree to which you discuss this side of your life with her. It is impossible to guarantee sparing her "another break-up." It is possible, however, to estimate your feelings for a particular man at a given time. The point at which such feelings seem to you to be "serious" constitutes the appropriate time for introductions, as long as you let your daughter ask you questions and voice any apprehensions she may have.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il



Harvard Professor Daniel J. Goldhagen holding a copy of his book 'Hitler's Willing Executioners' for a TV interview in Hamburg last Wednesday.

'Most Germans didn't object'

HENNECKE Kardel, who fought in Hitler's army, just shook his head as he stepped out of a theater that stands where the city's Jews once were herded together and deported to their deaths.

Kardel had just listened to historian Daniel J. Goldhagen defend his view that most Germans during Hitler's time had no objection to mass executions of Jews.

"It's wrong to say that most Germans wanted Jews to be killed," said the 75-year-old Kardel, who added he is not anti-semitic.

Goldhagen, a Harvard University political scientist, spent three hours inside the Kammerspiele theater last Wednesday night defending his controversial - and in Germany, best-selling - book, *Hitler's Willing Executioners*. The debate with five German experts was Goldhagen's first face-to-face showdown with German critics who accuse him of oversimplifying history.

Goldhagen, the son of a Holocaust survivor, did not budge from the argument he lays out in his book: The Holocaust grew from an "eliminationist anti-semitism" that pervaded Germany and did not exist in other countries. "I wrote the arguments in a forceful way, and I think I'm right," Goldhagen said.

In his book, Goldhagen tells of German civilian police battalions that rounded up helpless Jewish men, women and children and murdered them en masse.

Goldhagen claims the police officers were "ordinary Germans," and therefore indicative of an anti-semitic bloodlust that existed in the whole of German society.

To many Germans, that's insulting. To some, it comes close to anti-German racism. Nonetheless, Germans are fascinated by Goldhagen, probably because they still are trying to sort out how their parents and grandparents allowed six million Jews to be murdered.

Goldhagen's book is No. 4 on the best-seller list of the news magazine *Der Spiegel*. Some bookstores quickly sold out when the German translation was released last month.

The Kammerspiele theater also sold out its 400 seats.

Goldhagen debated historians Reinhard Ruerup, Goetz Aly and Hannes Heer; Robert Leicht, editor in chief of the weekly newspaper *Die Zeit*; and Jan P. Reemtsma, founder of the Hamburg Institute for Social Research, which sponsored the debate.

The debate began on a polite note, but soon became biting.

Ruerup, who teaches at Berlin's Technical University, said Goldhagen overlooked German Jews' social and professional achievements before World War I. The lives of German Jews were admired by Jews in other countries, he said. "Germany was a country which Jews wanted to move to," said Ruerup, to applause from the audience. Ruerup argued that even some who carried out murders of Jews were reluctant to be involved, and accused

Goldhagen of ignoring facts that didn't fit his thesis.

Goldhagen retorted: "I reject the notion that I have selectively used material. This is not how I operate."

In the end, even Goldhagen won a round of applause. He praised Germans for overcoming anti-semitism and joining the community of civilized nations. "Few who read *Mein Kampf* today would say 'das stimmt,'" Goldhagen said, using the German phrase for "That's right."

Ruth Schindler, a 67-year-old Czech Jew who barely escaped being gassed at Auschwitz, and her husband Franz, 68, an ethnic German from Prague, watched last Wednesday's debate. The two were high-school sweethearts before World War II. He was drafted into the German army in 1939; she was sent to Auschwitz. They met again after Ruth was liberated by the Soviet army from another Nazi camp in 1945.

Asked if she believed most Germans had murderous thoughts toward Jews at the time, Mrs. Schindler paused. "Germans watched as innocent people were deported," she said. "They said nothing. But I don't think that all thought that Jews should die." (AP)

Prohibition for the designated driver

DANIEL J. CHALFEN

INHALE deeply and then blow fiercely into the "breathalyzer" - a balloon crudely measuring the alcoholic consumption of the participant. This is not, as you might expect, a police stop-check for drunken drivers, but an innovative campaign against drinking and driving launched by the Organization for Road Safety and the Ministry of Transport.

From the evening through to the early hours of the morning, teams of volunteers, clad in the distinctive "Im shotim, lo nahagim, bishvil zeh, yesh haverim" (if you're drinking, don't drive. That's what friends are for) T-shirts, scour the streets for crowds of boozing revelers.



MEIR ROMMEN © 1996

Working in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa and Beersheba, volunteers do not check the age of the drinkers, just the safety of the drivers. Approaching a crowd, they ask who the designated driver is, and if he or she has been drinking.

They hand the driver car stick-

ers and information leaflets with facts about alcohol: "Alcohol can impair your vision"; "Alcohol slows down your reaction time."

They also inform people of the alcoholic contents of different beverages: beer has about 5%, wine has 10%, aperitifs 20% and spirits 40%.

The information also details the legal limits: it is forbidden to drive if the level of alcohol in the blood is over 50 mg of alcohol per 100 milliliters of blood. And the penalties: the police can with-

draw an offender's license on the spot; a court can withdraw the license for up to two years; six points can be incurred, as can a NIS 10,000 fine.

And, most innovatively, with this information is handed a badge entitling the recipient - the designated driver - to enter a prize draw, at a stall manned by volunteers in the town center. Mango portable telephones amongst the various prizes, and a T-shirt for everyone, seem to be a good incentive for keeping drivers sober.

"Thousands of people have already participated," claims Tali, a volunteer in Jerusalem's Russian Compound. "As long as the participant is the driver and is within the legal alcohol limit, he or she can win a prize."

The driver can even be driving someone else's car. "If the boy drinks," says Tali, another volunteer, "his girlfriend can drive his car. This is a very good and safe option."

And a word of advice for those who win the cellular phone: Don't talk and drive!

Deng's birthplace doesn't cash in

A newly paved road running through the one-street village of drab brick and mud buildings is Paifang's only sign of government largesse. "Deng Xiaoping and the leaders of the central government don't know how poor we people are," said Yang Zetian. He, his wife and 13-year-old daughter get by farming one-eighth of a hectare (a third of an acre) of corn, rice and vegetables.

Paifang's neglect seems unnatural in China where connections are supreme. In the battle for official favors, Paifang should win hands down: It's the birthplace of Deng Xiaoping, the architect of China's successful economic reforms.



Deng Xiaoping rejected the cult of personality that surrounded Mao. (AP)

As Deng turned an enfeebled 92 in Beijing last month, his hometown 1,400 kilometers away remains a backwater in the isolated, over-cultivated hills of central Sichuan province. The surrounding area shows only faint stirrings of the economic vitality his reforms have brought to other parts of China. For the people of Paifang (pronounced pie-fang), frustration over their impoverishment is mixed with admiration for the village's favorite son. "It's not fair. This place hasn't changed in years. Only the road has changed," said Deng Yuanqing, who farms a plot half the size of Yang's.

Their plight is common in the village of 2,000 people. Its 400 families on average bring in about 1,000 yuan (\$120) a year each, well below the government-set poverty line. Farmer Deng, no relation to the senior leader, admits that life has improved under the 18-years of market-oriented reforms. Gone are the days when farmers were told what to plant and when. They can now sell vegetables from household plots in the region's administrative capital,

Guangan. And most families have sent their grown children to work there or in more prosperous provinces.

In Guangan, 10 kilometers (6 miles) away, legions of young men work, putting up white-tiled buildings for a new commercial and administrative center. "Deng Xiaoping didn't focus his talents on this place. He put all his efforts into developing other areas, like the South," said Liang Mingui. Forced into retirement three years ago by a debt-laden state-run factory in Guangan, he now fixes machinery in a private enterprise. "Because it's his old home, they're starting to pay attention to it," said Liang.

PRIDE in Deng's success is obvious in the small museum housed in the well-to-do landowner's home he was born in. Renovated

and opened in 1982, the museum draws about 400 to 500 visitors a day, many from Sichuan. They take pictures in front of the white-washed mud stucco and wood-beam home and view the photos of Deng as a student in France, fighting the Japanese and Nationalists in China and climbing the ranks of the Communist Party. Outside, villagers sell pins, medallions and photographs of Deng - one of the few places such items can be found. "You can't say it's 'worship' but most common people are really grateful for what he's done," said Nie Er, a 28-year-old telephone line operator from Huayun, a small city 30 kilometers (20 miles) to the south.

Deng left Paifang for school in Chungking in 1918 and then went to France two years later and never came back to the village. His only surviving relative still living in the village is Dan Wenquan, son of Deng's mother's sister.

Deng rejected the cult of personality his predecessor, Mao Tse-tung, encouraged. He supported setting up the museum as long as "his achievements were not exaggerated," said curator Chen Xiansong.

Since he emerged as paramount leader in 1978, Deng has preferred to exercise power from behind the scenes. He has remained China's most influential political figure despite having relinquished his last official title in 1990. As his health has declined, signs of political eclipse have grown more evident in the past year. Two family members - second son Deng Zhifang and niece Ding Peng - have separately been tainted by accusations of corruption in firms they run or are associated with. Son-in-law He Ping has been under pressure to step down as head of China's premier arms trader, Poly

Technologies, after U.S. law enforcement officials accused it of trying to smuggle AK-47s into the United States. Eldest son Deng Pufang sparked rumors that his father was on his deathbed in July. Pufang defended Deng's legacy from critics on the party's right and the left in a stinging speech to the Chinese Federation of the Disabled. After refusing to comment on the rumors for nearly a week, the Foreign Ministry stated Deng was well and called the rumors groundless.

Whatever Deng's political fortunes, villagers in Paifang would like him to visit and see how things have changed. They also bristle at the suggestion Deng should have turned Paifang into the lucrative combination tourist trap-revolutionary pilgrimage site Mao's hometown of Shaoshan.

Hunan province, has become. "That's a type of selfishness," said Yang Xiaoping, a 20-plus woman who works on her family's farm. "The world wouldn't work so well if everyone was so selfish." (AP)

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Thursday, September 12, 1996

IMF blames Labor for Israel's economic slowdown

Shohat: no comment; Beilin: we made mistakes

THE previous Labor government's "departure from fiscal consolidation" and "expansionary fiscal policy" led to the present deterioration in the current-account deficit, a surge in consumer imports, and accelerating inflation, according to the International Monetary Fund statement issued at the end of its annual visit to Israel yesterday.

Former Labor Finance Minister MK Avraham Shohat said he would not comment on the report until he has had time to digest it, but on first sight, "all this is just the word of the Bank of Israel, copied by the IMF."

"I'm sure we made mistakes," said former economics and planning minister MK Yossi Beilin. "We could have cut more, but it was difficult to do this before the elections."

The IMF recommended the government continue its budget cuts program, reduce spending and implement its structural reform program, in a vote of support for the Bank of Israel-Finance Ministry's efforts to put the economy back on track.

Prior to the publication of the report there was intense speculation in the Hebrew media that the IMF would severely criticize the state of the economy. Indeed, the report does express considerable concern about a variety of negative trends, but it sums up by saying the policies currently being put in place could well solve the difficulties.

The absorption of new immigrants is proving to be successful, writes the five-member IMF group, which was headed by the deputy director of its European section Michael Deppler. Israel now has full employment, even over-employment given the number of foreign workers here. However, the potential of this new immigrant workforce remains to be fully tapped.

Having outlined the problems in the economy, the IMF statement then notes the steps being taken to rectify the situation. "The new government is fully committed to relieving these strains through its policies of fiscal consolidation, disinflation and structural reform," it

DAVID HARRIS

says. If these are closely followed there is a "good" chance this will lead to "a more sustainable growth path with rising living standards, declining inflation, near-current levels of unemployment, a more competitive real exchange rate, and a viable balance of payments," states the report.

However, the IMF feels there is little room for maneuver, and the policies must be brought to bear in a "coordinated and integrated fashion."

The IMF recommends as essential the 2.8 percent of GDP overall deficit target for 1997 be achieved, or even exceeded if growth proves stronger than expected.

With regard to public spending the IMF urges restraint, particularly cuts in the number of government employees. The planned NIS 4.9 billion budget cuts for next year are only half the size of the expansion in the deficit caused by the 1994 supplementary budget, in relation to GNP.

In order to receive more immediate benefits from this package, the government should accelerate the passage of the budget, and the budget law should set aside a percentage of planned current expenditures in a special reserve fund, only to be released mid-year if fiscal accounts are still on track.

While the IMF praises the government's attempt to reduce spending, it is critical of the steps being taken to reduce the deficit. The targeted declines are not steep enough, according to the organization. Instead, it feels the government must set more ambitious yearly and mid-term targets.

The IMF is urging the tight monetary policy be continued. However, once inflation begins to drop, interest and exchange rates could be lowered. "In the meantime, there is no alternative but to continue to sterilize capital inflows," the report says.

Target inflation rates should be set at lower than 7% by 1998 and 4% by 2001, bringing Israel in line with

other industrialized countries.

The independence of the central bank is key to the fulfillment of these aims, says the statement.

With regard to the government's planned structural reforms, the IMF enthusiastically notes the liberalization of trade, competition policy and downsizing of banks' non-financial holdings. However, the IMF notes the lack of action in the area of privatization, and the need to further liberalize the external capital account.

During the 11-day exercise, the group met Finance Minister Dan Meridor, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, senior figures in the public and private sectors, Histadrut officials and academics.

On its return to Washington the group will write a longer, more comprehensive report for consideration by IMF directors.

While the team's recommendations are in no way binding, Israel places much significance on the IMF's report, according to senior Bank of Israel officials.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

The proportion of air passengers travelling to and from Israel on Israeli carriers dropped by four percent during August, in comparison with the same month in 1995, with the market share of El Al and its charter subsidiary going down by 7%, while Arkia's slice grew by 37%. The Civil Aviation Administration reported a total of 906,534 passengers in August, 1% more than August of last year. Scheduled foreign carriers had 9% more passengers and foreign charters increased their passenger load by 1%. Despite reports of a massive decrease in the number of Israelis going to Turkey, Turkish Airlines was the leading foreign carrier during August, although it had 6% fewer passengers than last year. However, there were 25% fewer passengers on the Turkish charter flights.

Haim Shapiro

The Bank of Israel is putting together a proposal to limit the credit lines available through credit cards so that people cannot easily get themselves into debt beyond their ability to repay, Mordechai Fein, head of the central bank's department for bank-customer relations, told the Knesset Economics Committee yesterday. Ovadia Shraga'i, an advisor to the Industry and Trade Ministry, advocated passing legislation to allow credit card deals to be canceled immediately instead of only after 30 days. Knesset speaker Dan Tichon (Likud) asked for a legal opinion from the supervisor of monopolies as to whether Israel's two credit card companies constitute a cartel.

Evelyn Gordon

Giora Bitan quits Scitex: Executive vice president and chief financial officer of Scitex Corporation Ltd. Giora Bitan announced his resignation yesterday.

Bitan, who has been with Scitex for 14 years, nine as CFO, is the second senior employee to leave the firm in a month. Head of the graphic arts section Shimon Alon announced his departure at the end of August. "I want to thank Giora for the many important contributions he has made during these long years of service," said CEO Yoav Chelouche. Bitan told reporters he is not leaving because Chelouche was appointed CEO ahead of himself, as media reports had suggested. As yet it is unclear when Bitan will leave, but he has promised to help the company ensure a smooth changeover to his as yet unnamed replacement.

David Harris

Capital market suffered from uncertainty in 5756

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE capital market was an unattractive venue for investors in 5756, a year which suffered from economic uncertainty, mainly due to the change in government and fears the peace process would not continue.

Other factors which hindered the market were the public's fear that interest rates would remain high and the change in the asset portfolio of the public, who tended to transfer money from provident and mutual funds to saving schemes and shekel deposits. The large withdrawals hindered the markets liquidity.

Bank Hapoalim yesterday published a list of the performance of various investment routes in 5756. The General Share Index plunged 19.6%, the Two-Sided Index of the most heavily traded companies fell 16.8%, Maof shares fell 14.3% and the Karam plunged 26.5%.

Standing out among the shares were Yoza (L.S. Enterprise), up 206.9%, followed by Unidress Industries which increased 111.3%, and Miloumor which rose 106.1%. Other good performers were

Han-Let, up 91.4%, and Clal Computers which gained 74.5%.

The losers were led by Ofitzi, which plunged 87.3%, followed by Yaana Data which lost 87% and La Nationale which suffered an 84% drop.

Other poor performers were I.M. Bini which lost 83.4%, Magma down 81.1% and Credit Lines which fell 80.6%. The 20 worst shares all fell more than 70%.

In the bond market the General Bond Index rose 0.4%, index-linked bonds increased 0.7% while foreign currency-linked bonds fell 2%. The rise in CPI-linked bonds stands out in light of the wave of withdrawals from the provident funds and mutual funds. A large part of the money withdrawn was transferred to shekel deposits, creating surpluses of index-linked bonds, which caused a drop in prices.

In the reported period companies traded on the exchange raised NIS 1.31 billion via share issues while the government raised about NIS 24.6b. from the issue of bonds.



A Bombay delivery man loads lunch boxes onto a cart in a busy street yesterday. More than a million lunch boxes are prepared every day and supplied to office workers in the heart of India's commercial capital through a complicated deliver system involving hundreds of workers.

Bank of Jerusalem takes a step nearer commercial status

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Bank of Jerusalem has received a permit from the Bank of Israel to give dollar mortgages. This is the first step in the bank's effort to diversify and become a commercial bank which will offer private banking services.

The bank said it has received a limited authorized dealer service which will enable it to offer dollar mortgages, similar to those currently offered by the commercial banks. The bank intends to offer 10-year

mortgages at competitive rates.

The permit is in line with the bank's plans to offer private banking for foreign residents. In the framework of this plan, the bank recently announced its intentions to purchase Unistrust from the Zalman Shuvai group. Unistrust is the brokerage unit of the Shuvai Group. The purchase is expected to be completed shortly, subject to the approval of the minority shareholders.

Clal considers reducing interest in Urdan

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

CLAL Israel is considering whether to reduce its holdings in Urdan Industries or participate in the metal processing plants rights issue. Clal Israel president and CEO David Wainstal said this week.

Earlier this week Urdan Industries, controlling shareholders the Dovrat-Shrem group, announced its intention to increase the company's registered capital for trading by NIS 100 million. The increase will enable Urdan to issue a rights issue prospectus, which will dilute the companies shares, and enable it to raise an immediate NIS 60m.

The rights issue is subject to the approval of the company's shareholders. Clal Israel, which holds 20 percent of Urdan's shares said it is still deciding whether to participate in the rights issue, a move which is not in line with the group's business strategy.

Last year, Clal sold half of its shares in Urdan to the Dovrat-Shrem consortium. In addition Dovrat-Shrem has an option to purchase half of Clal's remaining holdings in Urdan, equivalent to 10% of the company's stock.

The rights issue is intended primarily to help Dovrat Shrem finance their investment in the Investment Company of Bank Hapoalim. At the end of August, Urdan acquired controlling interest in the investment company. The bank purchased 24% of the company's stock for NIS 197.8m., at a company value of about \$277m.

Processed food sales up 12%

PROCESSED food sales for the Rosh Hashana holiday are expected to be up 12 percent compared with last year, the Manufacturers Association announced yesterday.

Eli Maron, chairman of the association's food marketing committee, estimated sales to reach \$830 million this year. He said the massive sales started Saturday night and are expected to continue until

the eve of the festival.

Commenting on the various sectors, Maron said: honey sector sales are expected to increase 15%, the confectionery and chocolate field up 12% - 15%, the wine and alcoholic drink field a 12% growth and soft drinks 12-15% growth. The processed meat sector is forecasted to increase 10-12%.

Galit Lipkis Beck

Halla requests involvement in Popeye program

DAVID HARRIS

THE Korea-based Halla Group has expressed interest in participating in future developments in Israel's Popeye missile program, according to a senior official at Rafael, the Armaments Development Authority.

Twelve senior Halla executives, including group chairman Chung In Yung (the younger brother of Hyundai group chairman Park Se Yung), visited Rafael during a three-day fact-finding tour of Israel.

Rafael and Lockheed Martin set up a joint venture to market the air-to-surface Popeye missile and the nearly identical, US-made AGM-142 missile, last month.

The home-grown, highly-accurate Popeye missile's development is based on Israel Air Force combat experience, and has been operational since the late 1980s.

office in Korea and are in ongoing negotiations with other companies such as Daewoo and Samsung.

The delegation also met senior management at Israel Aircraft Industries Ltd., and at Nesher-Israel Cement Enterprises Ltd. During a visit to the Technion, talks were held on satellite development.

Three Halla executives have remained in Israel after their colleagues left yesterday. Those remaining are investigating the possibilities of joint-ventures in the space aviation field, particularly satellite technology. Israel launched its first communications satellite, Amos 1, in May.

Halla, Korea's 15th largest corporate group includes cement and shipbuilding companies and hopes to enter the communications field by 2000.

The group flew on to Turkey yesterday, to be followed by visits to Qatar, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Prior to arriving in Israel, the delegation met officials and businesspeople in China.

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ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

US companies display security devices in TA

RAINE MARCUS

SOME 12 American companies are displaying antiterror and other security equipment at the 10th Security Exhibition, which opened on Tuesday and closes today at the Tel Aviv Exhibition Grounds.

The companies, brought here by the Usimco marketing company under the auspices of the Israeli and US governments, aim to market their products largely to government agencies as part of the promised assistance by US President Bill Clinton in the fight to combat terrorism. "Fighting terror together," is the US stand's logo.

The Barringer company's Ionscan explosives and narcotics detector, in use around the world, is on display. Ionscan was used recently to help the FBI discover explosive components in the TWA blast. It also can detect plastic explosives. According to the company, it can detect the tiniest components of both explosive and narcotic substances.

Nabko is demonstrating a large container to be used in controlled detonations of explosives.

According to the company, four-and-a-half kilograms of explosives can be detonated inside the container, which has already been in experimental use here. It is designed for sale to police and IDF authorities only, and may be used on-site for bomb disposal or transported to detonation facilities.

Northrop Grumman's "hazardous duty" mobile robots are also designed for dealing with bombs and explosives. They are already used here.

A detector or identification sys-

tem for suicide bombers on buses has been developed by Prima Facie, which manufactures a digital "black box" video recording system aimed for use - together with CCTV cameras - on buses. The first phase of the system may be used only after a bomb is exploded to analyze the situation and to identify the bomber. Company managers say that the second phase of the system, in which a control room will be set up elsewhere supervised on-line on computers, is still being developed.

A non-lethal weapon, which may be purchased in the US without license, is being demonstrated by Air Taser. The small device utilizes compressed air to shoot two small electric probes at assailants. It may be "fired" from a distance of three meters and will paralyze assailants or other criminals for a period lasting from one to 15 minutes. Since it only temporarily jams the nervous system, it leaves no aftereffects or damage. The "ammunition" bears identification tags, which may be traced to the owner to prevent misuse.

A massive range of audiovisual surveillance devices, under stringent control and only on sale to government and intelligence agencies, are on display at the Westinghouse company's stand. Special training is given to those wishing to purchase the devices, which include highly sophisticated, covert surveillance and anti-surveillance equipment and electronic tracking systems, ranging from tiny body-worn devices to large undercover vans containing complete audiovisual units.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS					
Patach (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)					
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS		
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375		
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250		
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125		
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000		
Yen (10 million yen)					
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)					
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (11.9.96)					
Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.1377	3.1804	3.08	3.24	3.9483
German mark	2.0748	2.1081	2.08	2.14	2.0971
Pound sterling	4.8788	4.9575	4.79	5.03	4.9253
French franc	0.6078	0.6175	0.59	0.63	0.6139
Japanese yen (100)	2.8486	2.8926	2.78	2.94	2.8781
Dutch florin	1.8507	1.8806	1.81	1.91	1.8710
Swiss franc	2.5380	2.5777	2.49	2.62	2.5683
Swedish krona	0.4851	0.4727	0.45	0.48	0.4708
Norwegian krona	0.4838	0.4913	0.47	0.50	0.4885
Danish krona	0.6378	0.6486	0.62	0.68	0.6388
Finnish mark	0.8851	0.8862	0.87	0.71	0.8828
Canadian dollar	2.2888	2.3258	2.24	2.36	2.3101
Australian dollar	2.5115	2.5821	2.48	2.59	2.5339
S. African rand	4.3700	4.7115	4.33	4.72	4.7088
Belgian franc (10)	1.0089	1.0226	0.98	1.04	1.0178
Austrian schilling (10)	2.9471	3.0947	2.88	3.04	2.9788
Italian lira (1000)	2.0589	2.0922	2.02	2.13	2.0781
Jordanian dinar	0.7002	0.6900	0.67	0.67	0.6827
Egyptian pound	0.8900	0.8700	0.89	0.87	0.8827
ECU	3.8288	3.9622			3.9887
Irish punt	5.0477	5.1292	4.98	5.21	5.0941
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4582	2.4979	2.41	2.64	2.4825

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Ports and Railways Authority

Notice of Proposed Purchase

1. The Ports and Railways Authority - Israel (P.R.A.) wishes to obtain quotations, in accordance with the International Agreement on Government Procedure GATT, for the supply of the following equipment:

Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Est. Qty.	Est. Price	Submission Date
7170/022	42Tons Fork Lift Truck for Container handling	1	3	585.-	NOV 3, 1996

*Including 17% VAT

2. Expected delivery: As soon as possible.

3. **Pre-Requisites**

3.1 Bidders must prove that the proposed equipment is manufactured continuously

3.2 Bidders must be approved for ISO 9001/2 (or equivalent acceptable to the PRA) standard, or be listed for the same.

3.3 Bidders must meet the requirements of items marked "#" in section B of the specifications.

4. Bidders must undertake to have an authorized maintenance service station in Israel and capability of supply of spare parts.

5. The P.R.A. reserves the right to conduct negotiations with any or all of the selected bidders. Further, the P.R.A., is not obligated to purchase the lowest priced equipment which might be offered by any potential bidder. The P.R.A. reserves the right to test and try the proposed equipment in its ports prior to a decision of its purchase.

6. Tender documents including technical specifications are available upon payment as stated in para. 1 above (not refundable). All documents and proposals should be submitted in English.

7. The last date to submit the proposals is as stated in para. 1 at 15.00 hrs.

8. The address for the purchase of Tender Documentation and for submitting the proposals is:

Ports and Railways Authority - Israel
Purchasing Division
74, Petach Tikva Rd.
11th Floor, Room 1103
Tel Aviv 61201, Israel

סוכן מן הארץ

Juventus downs United, 1-0

TURIN (Reuter) - Alen Boksic scored a superbly taken goal on his home debut to lead new-look European champions Juventus to a 1-0 win over Manchester United in their opening Champions' League group match yesterday.

The 26-year-old Croatian striker, criticized for missing a series of chances in Juventus's opening league match of the season at Reggiana on Sunday, showed just why coach Marcello Lippi paid Lazio \$9 million for him in the summer with a virtuoso performance that included the only goal of the game after 34 minutes.

Boksic collected a perfect through ball from new French midfielder signing Zinedine Zidane, took the ball to the edge of the United box and rode a tackle before sweeping the ball past helpless United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel.

Although it was the only goal of a game that never quite lived up to expectations, it emphasized the significant advantage Juventus, fielding only six players who appeared in last May's European Cup final win over Ajax Amsterdam, held over the English league champions and FA Cup holders.

Their crisp, concise play, built around the non-stop foraging of Boksic, Zidane, Alessandro Del Piero and Didier Deschamps, was in stark contrast to United's hit-and-hope strategy that was further undermined by some sloppy passing and control.

The defeat meant United has lost all five competitive European matches they have played in Italy since the 1957-58 season, during which time they have scored just once and conceded 12 goals.

- Group A: In Auxerre: Auxerre (France) 0, Ajax Amsterdam (Netherlands) 1 (0-1). Scorers: Jari Litmanen (4th).
- Group B: In Zurich: Grasshopper Zurich (Switzerland) 3, Glasgow Rangers (Scotland) 0. Scorers: Kubilay Turkyilmaz (28th, 79th), Murat Yakin (18th).
- Group C: In Dortmund: Borussia Dortmund (Germany) 2, Widzew Lodz (Poland) 1 (1-0). Scorers: Dortmund - Hajo Herrlich (45th, 68th), Lodz - Marek Cichoci (84th).
- Group D: In Madrid: Atletico Madrid (Spain) 4, Steaua Bucharest (Romania) 0 (2-0). Scorers: Juan Eduardo Esneider (28th, 45th) Diego Simeone (64th, 85th).
- Group E: In Vienna: Rapid Vienna (Austria) 1, Fenerbahce (Turkey) 1 (0-1). Scorers: Rapid Vienna - Christian Stumpf (58th), Fenerbahce - Emir Sobic (30th).
- Group F: In Turin: Juventus (Italy) 1, Manchester United (England) 0 (1-0). Scorers: Alen Boksic (34th).
- Group G: In Milan: AC Milan (Italy) 2, Porto (Portugal) 3 (1-0). Scorers: Milan - Marco Simone (14th), George Weah (28th), Porto - Artur (53rd), Jardel (75th, 83rd).
- Group H: In Gothenburg: Gothenburg (Sweden) 2, Rosenborg (Norway) 3 (1-1). Scorers: Gothenburg - Magnus Eriksson (38th, 49th), Rosenborg - Mini Jakobsen (32nd), Steffen Iversen (52nd), Harald Brattbak (64th).

Mixed fortunes for newcomers as National Basketball League opens

IN AN opening night marred by canceled games and blowouts, Hapoel Galil Elyon overcame a ragged beginning to score a relatively routine 90-78 victory over newcomers Maccabi Ra'anana, while newcomers Givat Shmuel scored their first National League victory, whipping former league stalwarts Hapoel Tel Aviv, 84-75.

In the only other game of the night, Maccabi Rishon LeZion embarrassed undermanned Hapoel Safed, 96-72.

Galil Elyon 90
Mac. Ra'anana 78

Apparently Galil Elyon prefers the role of underdog. Entering the season with a good chance at making the Final Four, the newcomers struggled through the first three quarters of the game before rallying to secure the victory.

Depth and experience proved to be the deciding factors, as Galil Coach David Blatt was able to rotate 10 productive, savvy players into the game while his counterpart, Arif Shubak, had to make do with just six. This had a major effect on Ra'anana center Tomer Steinhauer, who scored 17 of his 21 total points in the first half, before fatigue set in.

Ra'anana started its national League debut, by making life difficult for Blatt's club. The newcomers opened the game with a hustling, tenacious defense. The zone defense employed by Shubak helped stifle high-scoring Andrew Kennedy throughout the first half, which ended in a 40-40 deadlock.

Foul trouble did not help Galil's cause, as Gur Shelef and Alon Stein racked up their third fouls relatively early. Galil also struggled under the boards throughout, an aspect that could prove to be the team's Achilles heel this year.

In the end though, it was Kennedy and Shelef, as usual, who led the way with 24 and 18

points, respectively. Jason Dixon (16), Stein (11), and Gil Sela (10) also cracked double-figures. Steinhauer and Koren Amisha paced Ra'anana with 21 points apiece.

Givat Shmuel 84
Hapoel TA 75

Givat Shmuel provided team manager Mickey Berkowitz with an unexpected New Year's present: an 84-75 road victory at Ussishkin in the team's National League debut.

Former UNLV star Gerald Paddio scored the team's first two points, and by the time Hapoel Tel Aviv had scored its first basket, Givat Shmuel had put nine points on the board. The fast pace continued, and Givat Shmuel jumped out to a 23-9 lead before Tel Aviv Coach Meir Kaminsky called for his first time-out.

The non-existence of a reliable shooter from the perimeter was a major factor in Hapoel's falling behind early. Demetri Hill started off as good as advertised, scoring 12 of the Tel Avivians' first 20 points, but without anyone to stretch the Givat Shmuel defense, the deficit stayed the same.

However, Viki Revah and Gil Mosenzon came in off the bench and provided an aggressive lift, closing the gap to 29-26. Givat Shmuel Coach Eli Kenati countered by bringing in Sharon Shazkari, whose deft jump-shot sparked Givat

Team	W	L	Pct.
Maccabi Rishon	1	0	1.000
Hapoel Galil Elyon	1	0	1.000
Givat Shmuel	1	0	1.000
Maccabi Ra'anana	0	1	.000
Hapoel Tel Aviv	0	1	.000
Hapoel Safed	0	1	.000
Maccabi Tel Aviv	0	0	.000
Hapoel Jerusalem	0	0	.000
Bnei Herzliya	0	0	.000
Hapoel Holon	0	0	.000
Hapoel Eilat	0	0	.000
Maccabi Ramat Gan	0	0	.000

missing, and their absence was felt. Shmuel on a 16-2 run stretching the advantage to 46-29.

Paddio led all Givat Shmuel players with 24 points, while Dror Cohen chipped in with 16. Hill paced all scorers with 27.

Mac. Rishon 96
Hap. Safed 72

In a game best forgotten, Maccabi Rishon thrashed their undermanned opponents from the North.

Due to financial problems, Safed was only permitted to use seven players. Erez Hazan and Andre Spencer were among the

missing, and their absence was felt. Rishon jumped out to a 14-0 lead, and the team never looked back. Without putting out too much of an effort, the players were able to maintain and extend their lead until the final buzzer.

Rishon coach Roni Busani ended the game with five new players who were playing their first National League game after being promoted from the team's youth club.

Another team newcomer, Doron Janchee led the way with 22 points. James Terry had 22 for Safed.

Canada wins Game 1 of hockey finals

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - Steve Yzerman scored with 9:23 left in overtime as Canada beat the United States 4-3 in the opener of their best-of-three World Cup of Hockey championship series.

Yzerman's shot from 10 feet out in the left circle glanced off goaltender Mike Richter's glove and dropped over the goal line to win Tuesday night's game.

Canada, which outshot the United States 7-1 in overtime and 35-26 overall, was only 6.3 seconds away from victory in regulation when John LeClair sent the game into overtime with a goal that was actually pushed into the net by defenseman Eric Desjardins.

With just under 10 seconds to play in the third period and the US having lifted its goaltender for the extra attacker, Joel Otto won a draw in the Canada zone to Brian Leetch.

Leetch's shot from 20 feet was stopped by Curtis Joseph, but the rebound bounced clear. Desjardins was trying to shove the loose puck under his goalie but it went too far, dribbling into the net.

Theo Fleury's goal halfway through the final period gave Canada a 3-2 lead.

Fleury, who scored in the second overtime against Sweden on Saturday to move Canada into the championship round, collected a loose puck outside the US blue line and skated in on Richter. He faked a move to the front of the net, causing Richter to drop to the ice, then beat the goalie with a short shot from a tough angle along the goal line at 9:58.

Game 2 of the series will be today in Montreal. If needed, Game 3 will take place Saturday in Montreal.

Eric Lindros and Claude Lemieux scored the other goals for Canada. Derian Hatcher scored both US goals.

The US trailed 1-0 after one period but Hatcher scored twice in the second. Lemieux's goal with 39 seconds left in the second period made it 2-2 going into the third.

Lemieux was credited with the tying goal on a play set up by Mark Messier. Messier sidestepped a check at the blue line by Mathieu Schneider and skated along the right wing before flipping a pass to the net.

The puck hit, either Lemieux or the US's Scott Young in front and dropped into the net.

Both of Hatcher's goals came when he moved in from his defenseman's post.

The US, outshot 11-5 in the first period, had few scoring chances and didn't play as crisply as they have throughout the tournament.

Canada 1 1 1 1 0 - 4
United States 0 2 1 1 0 - 4
First Period - 1, Canada, Lindros (Blake, Gretzky), 16:50 (pp), Penalties - Dampousse, Can (slashing), 5:38; Weight, USA (slashing), 7:55; Guerin, USA (holding), 15:01; Shanahan, Can (roughing), 16:04; Coffey, Can (roughing), 16:04; Chelios, USA (slashing), 16:04; Deadmarsh, USA (roughing), 18:04; Niedermayer, Can (tripping), 18:23.

Second Period - 2, United States, D. Hatcher (LeClair, Smolinski), 2:03. 3, United States, D. Hatcher (Monte, Leetch), 13:51. 4, Canada, Lemieux (Messier, Graves), 19:21. Penalties - Salko, Can (holding), 4:06; Tkachuk, USA (roughing), 6:17; Suter, USA (roughing), 6:58; Salko, Can (holding), 6:58; Canada bench, served by Fleury (too many men), 11:24.

Third Period - 5, Canada, Fleury (Bretz, Amour), 6:58. 6, United States, LeClair (Leetch, Otto), 19:53. Penalties - Foote, Can (roughing), 6:28; Schneider, USA (roughing), 6:28.

Overtime - 7, Canada, Yzerman (Bretz, Amour, Fleury), 10:37. Penalties - Weight, USA (high-sticking), 4:25. Shots on goal - Canada 11-8-9-7 - 35. United States 5-14-8-1 - 26.

Power-play Opportunities - Canada 1 of 4; United States 0 of 5. Goalies - Canada, Joseph (26 shots-23 saves). United States, Richter (35-31).

Butler suffers broken hand

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Less than a week after his inspirational return to the Los Angeles Dodgers, Brett Butler is sidelined again, probably for the rest of the season.

And it's possible his career is finished as well. Playing in just his fifth game after an absence of more than four months because of tonsil cancer, Butler broke his left hand while bunting during the Dodgers' 5-4 victory over the Cincinnati Reds on Tuesday night.

There was no immediate word on how long Butler will be sidelined, but when asked whether Butler will be able to play again this year, Dodgers manager Bill Russell said, "I would say it's highly unlikely."

"When I went out, his hand was turning blue," Russell said. "He got hit pretty good. You knew it was bad. I knew he was going to come out once I saw it."

Butler, who suffered the injury to his throwing hand in the fourth inning, recently told friends and several teammates that he will retire after this season.

Of course, all that could change after the latest development. Butler, 39, has shown that once he puts his mind to something, anything's possible. He went through two operations and 32 radiation treatments before coming back.

Butler squared around to bunt and Giovanni Carrara's inside pitch hit him on the hand. It was ruled a foul ball by plate umpire Bill Hohn because Butler's hand was on the bat when it was struck.

"It's just a tough break, man," Dodgers second baseman Delino DeShields said. "This isn't like cancer, obviously, but still he's going to be out. It's weird. He busted his tail just to get back."

"I don't know, I don't even know what to say," Dodgers trainer Charlie Strasser

said he didn't want to speculate on how long Butler will be sidelined. "It's a fracture of the fifth metacarpal, that's all we know at this time," Strasser said. "He was going to be put in a splint tonight. Tomorrow we'll be able to tell you more."

There are only 18 games left in the regular season, which ends September 29. Butler went to Centinela Hospital Medical Center in nearby Inglewood for X-rays after being injured. Dodgers physician Dr. Frank Joe went to the hospital to examine him further after it was announced in the ninth inning that Butler had sustained the fracture.

"I can't imagine how he feels. It's got to be a devastating blow to him," Russell said. "Knowing him, he'll be OK after it settles in. I don't know if it's a season-ending injury, he's got to be able to squeeze a bat."

"It's a devastating blow to him and to us. We have (Wayne) Kirby and (Chad) Curtis (to play center field). He (Butler) will be missed."

Reds outfielder Eric Davis, who was a teammate of Butler's with the Dodgers in 1992-93, winced when he heard about the severity of Butler's injury.

"He's been blessed that he's healthy now, and that's the key," Davis said. "He was able to overcome some tremendous odds, so the fact that he's only played in five games is not a negative thing."

"In my eyes, he's won. Even if he came back and played one game, he still won. But on the downside, he's an inspiration to their ballclub and you hate to see a guy go down like that."

Raul Mondesi had four hits, including his seven in a row over a two-day period, and Todd Hollandsworth had three, including his 11th homer, as the Dodgers won for the 14th time in 18 games.

Orioles take wild card lead

BALTIMORE - The Baltimore Orioles moved into the lead in the race for the American League wild card berth and kept the pressure on the New York Yankees in the battle for the Eastern Division title with a 5-1 win over the Chicago White Sox on Tuesday.

David Wells scattered seven hits over 7 1/3 innings and Rafael Palmeiro belted a two-run homer to cap a three-run fifth inning for the Orioles, who moved one-half game ahead of the White Sox in the wild card race.

The Orioles, who trail New York by 2 1/2 games, scored three runs in the fifth off starter Kevin Tapani (12-9) to snap a 1-1 tie.

Roberto Alomar doubled and beat the throw home on Todd Zeile's bloop single to left. Palmeiro then hit his 35th homer into the right-center field stands for a 4-1 lead.

"I gave me a good pitch to hit and I just saw the ball well," Palmeiro said. "You've got to give credit to David Wells, he pitched a great game."

Yankees 9, Tigers 8
Cecil Fielder, helped by a hard slide from Tim Lincecum, drove in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning in his return to Tiger

Stadium, and the New York Yankees overcame Dwight Gooden's shortest start ever. Defensive replacement Ruben Rivera made a diving catch in the ninth that preserved the victory, which kept the Yankees 2 1/2 games ahead of Baltimore.

TUESDAY'S AL RESULTS: Milwaukee 11, Boston 10
Cleveland 7, California 5
Baltimore 5, Chicago 1
Texas 11, Toronto 8
Kansas City 4, Seattle 2
Oakland 7, Minnesota 0
New York 9, Detroit 8

TUESDAY'S NL RESULTS: St. Louis 1, San Francisco 0
Houston 4, Philadelphia 3
Florida 9, New York 3
Chicago 10, Montreal 3
Columbus 9, Atlanta 8
Los Angeles 5, Cincinnati 4
San Diego 6, Pittsburgh 5

WILD CARD RACE
AMERICAN LEAGUE

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Baltimore	78	67	.542	-
Chicago	76	67	.527	1/2
Seattle	73	69	.514	4
Boston	73	72	.503	9 1/2

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Los Angeles	80	64	.556	-
San Diego	81	65	.555	-
Montreal	78	66	.542	2
Houston	77	69	.521	4

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Los Angeles	80	64	.556	-
San Diego	81	65	.555	-
Montreal	78	66	.542	2
Houston	77	69	.521	4



DP CITY - Florida's Kurt Abbott forces out NY's Tim Bogart.

AMERICAN LEAGUE				NATIONAL LEAGUE			
East Division				East Division			
Team	W	L	Pct.	Team	W	L	Pct.
New York	80	63	.559	Atlanta	86	57	.601
Baltimore	78	66	.542	Montreal	78	66	.542
Boston	73	72	.503	Florida	71	75	.486
Toronto	66	79	.455	New York	64	81	.441
Detroit	51	94	.352	Philadelphia	58	87	.400
Central Division				Central Division			
Cleveland	85	58	.594	St. Louis	79	66	.545
Chicago	78	67	.537	Houston	77	69	.521
Minnesota	72	72	.500	Chicago	73	71	.507
Milwaukee	70	78	.473	Chicago	73	72	.503
Kansas City	66	79	.455	Pittsburgh	59	84	.413
West Division				West Division			
Texas	83	61	.575	Los Angeles	80	64	.556
Seattle	73	69	.514	San Diego	81	65	.555
Oakland	71	75	.486	Colorado	74	71	.510
California	65	80	.448	San Francisco	59	84	.413

Gavri Levy to become next IFA chairman

GAVRI Levy is set to take over the most important job in Israeli soccer when he assumes the chairmanship of the Israel Football Association next month.

Levy defeated Hapoel rival Haim Haberfeld for the job by a single vote, and will replace current chairman Azrikam Milchan for the next 15 months, until a new IFA management committee is elected.

Under a rotation deal agreed upon after the last IFA elections, the Maccabi representative (Milchan) and an Hapoel representative would share the job, with one becoming the other's deputy for the rest of the period. Levy has held the

deputy's role since the last IFA elections in 1993. Levy and Haberfeld, who has sat in the chairman's office twice before, were the two candidates for the job on behalf of the Hapoel sports organization, with 37 Hapoel management committee members splitting their votes 19-18 in favor of Levy, who will hold the position for the first time.

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Daring escape lands 4 Israelis in Turkish Cypriot jail

Armed cyclists freed 2 friends before surrendering

NICOSIA (AP) - Two armed Israelis on motorcycles halted a police car yesterday and freed two other Israelis being taken to court to face charges of possessing \$7,200 in counterfeit money, police said.

The two bikers and the freed pair fled on the two motorcycles into the UN buffer zone splitting Cyprus into the Greek south and the Turkish north, before later surrendering to Turkish Cypriot police.

"They came speeding down here like a bullet," a Greek Cypriot policeman said at the southern checkpoint of the buffer zone, near Nicosia's old Ledra Palace hotel.

Greek Cypriot police identified the two freed Israelis as Shuki Samana, 24, a car salesman, and Avi Biton, 21, a tire repairman. The Turkish Cypriot news agency identified their liberators as Shimon Amor, 17, and David Biton, 24. It was not known if the two Bitons are related.

About an hour after the four fled north, two UN officers brought two red motorcycles from the buffer zone and parked them outside the Ledra Palace police post.

All four surrendered to the Turkish Cypriot police, the Turkish Cypriot news agency said, quoting a statement by Turkish Cypriot Police Chief Eray Merturk.

The agency later said the four were remanded for three days to give police time to investigate their case.

Merturk said the Greek Cypriot side had not sought extradition of the four from the north, where a breakaway state recognized only by Turkey was declared in 1983.

The UN Forces in Cyprus, however, asked Turkish Cypriot authorities to hand the four men over to the UN for prosecution in Greek Cypriot courts for allegedly threatening UN peacekeepers with knives while fleeing.

Greek Cypriot police spokesman Glafcos Xenos said the two motorcycles pulled alongside the police car driving the two Israelis to court when it stopped at a traffic light not far from the Nicosia prison.

"One had a gun, and the other a knife. They quickly cut the handcuff chains linking the two prisoners to each other," Xenos said. "All four jumped on the motorcycles and sped away."

The two freed prisoners were arrested on August 30, after police found \$7,200 in suspected counterfeit US currency in their possession. Avi Biton and Samana were ordered held pending formal charges, set for yesterday in Larnaca.



Avi Biton (left) and Shuki Samana, freed by two accomplices yesterday, during a court appearance on September 6 in Larnaca for allegedly possessing counterfeit money. The pair and their accomplices later surrendered by Turkish Cypriot police.

WEATHER

Global 16-29
Haifa 21-29
Tiberias 20-28
Afula 18-32
Samarlia 16-29
Tel Aviv 22-30
Jerusalem 17-29
Beersheba 20-32
Dead Sea 25-36
Eilat 25-36

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. Slight rise in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	Cloud	Wind	Sea
Alexandria	26	30	18	81	sh
Bahia	19	25	10	81	sh
Buenos Aires	17	23	10	81	sh
Chicago	17	23	10	81	sh
Copenhagen	14	20	10	81	sh
Helsinki	12	18	10	81	sh
London	11	17	10	81	sh
Los Angeles	11	17	10	81	sh
Madrid	11	17	10	81	sh
Moscow	11	17	10	81	sh
New York	12	18	10	81	sh
Paris	12	18	10	81	sh
Rome	12	18	10	81	sh
Stockholm	11	17	10	81	sh
Sydney	12	18	10	81	sh
Tokyo	12	18	10	81	sh
Warsaw	11	17	10	81	sh
Zurich	11	17	10	81	sh

Kollek: Bar-Ilan situation virtually unsolvable

HAIM SHAPIRO

FORMER Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek said yesterday that during his administration, dozens of streets were closed to traffic on Shabbat without incident.

Testifying before the public committee on transportation on Shabbat, headed by Dr. Zvi Zameret, Kollek added that it might have been possible to solve the dispute over traffic on Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan before the issue got in the spotlight, but that now the problem is virtually unsolvable.

The committee was appointed by Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy at the request of the High Court, which refused to rule on the Bar-Ilan issue until the entire issue of closing streets on Shabbat is reviewed.

Kollek recalled that shortly after he assumed office, City Council decided to close King George Street during prayer times at Jeshurun Synagogue, then the largest synagogue in Jerusalem. The issue passed without protest, he recalled.

Kollek also said that his administration had in effect divided the city between the religious and the secular, with no commercial activity in the haredi sections on Shabbat and extensive nightlife on Shabbat in the other parts of the city. At the time, he said, haredi City Council members had agreed to the arrangement, but refused to formalize it in law.

He also revealed that demonstrations against Shabbat traffic on the Ramot Road had only ended after a group of secular activists had broken the windows of an apartment house from which the protests and stone throwing had originated. However, he added, he still fears expected haredi rule over the city.

"I believe that the secular have been more considerate of the haredim than the haredim will be of the secular when they take control," Kollek said.

In this context, Zameret cited an expert who had appeared before the committee and predicted that in 2010, Jerusalem would have 250,000 haredim, 250,000 Arabs, and 350,000 secular, traditional, and modern religious Jews combined.

However, Mayor Ehud Olmert, who also testified yesterday, said that the so-called haredi takeover of the city is more a matter of image than reality. He recalled the nightlife on weekends and the fact that performers at the opening of the Israel Festival had performed nude, with barely a murmur.

On the other hand, when someone tried to open a cafe on Shabbat near a large religious area, Olmert himself did all he could to stop it. He commented on the special atmosphere in Jerusalem on Shabbat and said that it was part of the character of the city.

"I myself drive on Shabbat, but I would not drive on Rehov Bar-Ilan," he said.

He added that in his view the best, and most economic, solution to the Bar-Ilan problem would be to construct a tunnel the length of the street. In the end, he said, it would be less costly than bringing hundreds of policemen there to keep order every Shabbat.

Gore, Kemp woo Jewish vote with pro-Israel speeches at NYC bash

MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK

IN speeches finely tuned to the American presidential campaign, Vice President Al Gore and his Republican rival, Jack Kemp, vied Tuesday night to show how committed each is to Israel and to a relationship with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"History will record that Israel has never had a better friend in the White House than President Bill Clinton," Gore said at a New York dinner to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

"Just as we once walked side by side in partnership for peace with Yitzhak Rabin, we are proud to walk by your side, Mr. Prime Minister, in your search for peace with security," Gore said.

The US recognizes that Israel's aspirations for peace must be balanced with demands for security, and it is the Israelis who must determine how to keep this balance, said Gore, who was repeatedly interrupted by applause.

"I do not doubt for a moment that this prime minister will seek peace with all of Israel's neighbors, seek it cautiously but energetically," Gore said, warning that Israel's neighbors should not "mistake his sternness for belligerence."

At his last public appearance during his two-day visit to the US, Netanyahu called both Gore and Kemp friends of the Jewish people and made no reference to any disagreements with the Clinton administration. Instead, he noted that when the US challenged Iraq last week, it was only Israel and Britain that quickly supported the US move without reservations.

He said he intends not merely to search for peace, but to achieve it. However, Netanyahu said: "The temptation is always there to sign pieces of paper. But securing peace is not easy. We want formal peace, secure peace, and a prosperous peace for ourselves and our neighbors."

Referring to his Israel agenda, Kemp said that a Republican administration would not follow the "misguided efforts" to force Israel to give back the Golan Heights.

Kemp also reminded the audience that it was Bob Dole who had introduced legislation in the Senate to move the US Embassy to Jerusalem.

"I believe that by 1999 even the US State Department can learn how to say, 'Next year in Jerusalem,'" Kemp said, a blast at Clinton's reticence about moving the embassy - which was shared by the Labor government.

And though he said he was not trying to market Netanyahu's book, he held up a copy, saying it was the blueprint for how a Dole administration would fight terrorism.

Facing an audience of 1,000 well-heeled and politically connected Jews, Kemp also sought to recover from published remarks in which he appeared to praise Louis Farrakhan, the leader of the black separatist Nation of Islam. Farrakhan, who has cozy relations with Libya, is widely seen as an antisemite.

Kemp said his remarks had been "sorely misrepresented," and called upon Farrakhan to "once and for all renounce antisemitism."

Netanyahu avoided all but the Gore and Kemp speeches during the three-plus-hour dinner, which was intended to raise funds for the Presidents Conference. Instead, he caused commotion at the front of the room as he - and a phalanx of Israeli and US security men - escorted Kemp and Gore, separately, in and out of the hall, and reportedly held private meetings with them during his lengthy absences.

When it was his turn to speak, Netanyahu proved himself an adept veteran of the dinner circuit, easing the restlessness in the room by saying: "This is definitely a Jewish dinner. Three hours into it and you haven't begun the main course."

Winning cards

IN yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the king of spades, the ace of hearts, the eight of diamonds and the ace of clubs.

Beersheba girl forced to travel to Belgium to get liver transplant

JUDY SIEGEL

ANNA Korchevnik, 10, of Beersheba, and her father will have to fly urgently to Brussels for the transplant of part of his liver into her because "bureaucratic rather than medical" problems have held up Health Ministry approval of the procedure here.

Dr. Oded Jurim, a senior transplant surgeon at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, said yesterday that the special ministry committee established earlier this year to study the matter decided two months ago to recommend that it be allowed at Hadassah. However, Jurim said this recommendation has not yet been officially approved, even though Health Minister Tzahi Hanegbi's predecessor, Ephraim Sneh, gave his approval in principle months before leaving office.

"It is not a simple operation; it could have more serious complications than a relative giving one of his kidneys to a child. But it is performed with much success in the US, Japan, and some European countries. We at Hadassah would be ready to perform the surgery immediately."

Health Ministry spokesman Efi Lahav conceded that the special committee, headed by Prof. Alexander Gilton, had recommended approval of the procedure here, but he said other aspects of the issue, including "legal and ethical ones," had not yet been resolved.

Supreme Court concludes hearing Kikos murderer's appeal

EVERLYN GORDON

THE Supreme Court finished hearing Suleiman Abeid's appeal against his conviction for the rape and murder of Hanit Kikos yesterday, but Justices Shlomo Levine, Eliezer Goldberg, and Ya'akov Kedmi will give their verdict at a later date.

At the hearing, prosecutor Nava Ben-Or responded to the arguments raised by defense attorney Avigdor Feldman on Tuesday, and to the questions presented at the start of the session by Goldberg, who said he was troubled by the many inaccuracies and contradictions in Abeid's confessions to the police, which were the basis of his conviction.

For instance, Goldberg noted, Abeid described the 17-year-old Kikos as being 30 or 40; he erroneously described her as a redhead; he initially said he raped her three times, but later said he raped her only once; he said several times that she might come back, which he would know was impossible if he had murdered her; he could not remember whether she was wearing pants or a dress; he said he strangled her with one hand while driving, which appears medically impossible; and he said he had buried the body in the Dudaim dump, when in fact it was in a Beersheba drainage ditch - a lie which was pointless once he had confessed.

Ben-Or responded that many of the contradictions could be explained by a war between Abeid's emotional need to confess and the dictates of his intelligence. After being impelled to confess by an inner need, she said, his brain would reassert itself and cause him to backtrack.

Abeid's behavior was psychologically consistent with a real confession, Ben-Or argued. For instance, at one court session, he burst into tears. When he got back to the jail, he asked a policeman whether he had seen the outburst, and told him it was caused by the fact that he had been "remembering." When the policeman asked what he had remembered, he responded: "I remembered that girl." Ben-Or also denied Feldman's claim that Abeid's confession had been "guided" by the police. His first confession was to a police agent planted in his cell, very shortly after he was remanded, and it included details which he could not have heard from the police, she said.

Regarding the manner in which he killed Kikos, Ben-Or noted that according to a medical opinion by the state's pathologist, it would be possible to strangle someone one-handed while driving, if the person were unconscious and already close to death. In Abeid's first confession, he said he had first Kikos severely, so this is a reasonable scenario, she said.

Testimony begins in trial of MK Meir Sheerit

THE Jerusalem District Court began hearing testimony in the trial of former Jewish Agency treasurer MK Meir Sheerit, who is charged with misusing his agency credit card.

Sheerit is charged with using a Jewish Agency credit card to buy personal items without reporting them, and of taking his family on vacation in the US at agency expense. He claimed the visit was a business trip.

Prosecutor Nurit Blobstein, in presenting the charges against Sheerit, said that on the trip in question, his wife's tickets were paid for by the agency expense, while his children's tickets were obtained with frequent flyer points obtained while on trips for agency business.

Sheerit claimed that on the visit - which he said was a business trip to Norfolk, Virginia - he was accompanied by his wife based on the understanding in the agency that once every three years a member of the board's wife could accompany him abroad, and that the members could use their frequent flyer points for this purpose. Blobstein noted that during the trip, the family went to Disney World and shows with the children.

Regarding the second indictment, the prosecution claims that Sheerit used his agency credit card 40 times to buy personal items without reporting them. Sheerit said he reported all of them by writing "personal" on the credit card receipts.

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